

THE VOICE

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Adult Education.....	5
Christmas Party.....	1
Confirmation.....	4
Children and Middlers.....	4
Congregational Corner.....	6
From Your Pastor.....	2
Hanging of the Greens.....	1
Music Notes.....	3
Opportunities to Connect...6	
Mission Sunday.....	1
Session Highlights.....	1
Worship Schedule.....	3

CONCERTS & SERVICES

Denver Philharmonic
Orchestra
November 18 | 7 pm

Bach Cantata
November 20 | 10:30 am

Hanging of the Greens
November 26 | 9 am

All church Christmas Party
December 10 | 6 pm



DECK THE HALLS...AND THE SANCTUARY

Few sanctuaries are lovelier than Central's when decked out for Advent and Christmas. Join your church family on Saturday, November 26 from 9am to noon for the annual Hanging of the Greens. There will be tasks for every age group. Bring your family and friends for this season-starting tradition!

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The All-Church Christmas Party is set for Saturday, December 10, so be sure to mark your calendars now for this festive Central tradition! The party will be at the home of **Rick and Joyce Coville**, 17 Polo Field Lane, Denver 80209, beginning at 6 pm. Remember that this event is open to all ages. As in previous years, the plan is potluck dishes by all, and beef tenderloin expertly prepared by Rick Coville. Contact Joyce at fjcoville@msn.com or 303-871-8991

OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- *Welcomed Elder **Walt Carroll**, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry liaison who spoke about the transition after Jacqueline's departure;
- *Scheduled a congregational "listening circle" for January 29, 2017, with opportunity to have conversation about Central's social witness. More information to come;
- *Approved a \$50,000 loan from the unrestricted endowment fund for cash flow to year's end;
- *Approved a proposal to hire the **Rev. Stan Jewell** as a Parish Associate (part-time) to provide ministry continuity following Jacqueline's departure;
- *Approved a proposal to hire the **Rev. Sue Melrose**, church consultant, to conduct a staffing analysis, to help us determine the best staffing plan for our mission and downtown location.

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.

Garrison Keillor liked to sign off episodes of *Prairie Home Companion* with this farewell, and it seems apt as we say goodbye to Jacqueline, Nick, and their daughters and turn our attention to the good work to which God has called us here.



Confirmation mentors are being trained to walk with a young person during this faith formation experience. . . .the choir is practicing a Bach cantata to be presented in worship November 20. . . .join the Daniel family for one final stewardship “Evening for Central” and make your financial commitment to Central’s thriving mission (total pledged amount will be announced on November 20). . . pray for our nation as we elect a new president and other leaders. . . . give thanks and welcome one another around abundant tables....welcome the Rev. Stan Jewell when he joins us as a part-time Parish Associate on November 21. . . . farewell, hello, hello, farewell.

Life marches on at a breaktaking pace. Make time to notice that God is right there with you. Breathe. Pray. Give thanks. Choose to gather and worship. Commit an act of kindness, expecting nothing in return. Go through the pile of mail on your desk and find the commitment card from Central, complete and return it. We want to stay in touch with you: don’t hesitate to contact me if you have perspectives to share, questions, or concerns.

And hear God’s blessing upon us individually and together: Be well, do good work, keep in touch.

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.

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

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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),

November Worship Schedule

November 6 [daylight savings time ENDS] Communion, commemoration of those who have died this past year. Louise Westfall preaching on Luke 21:1-4 All She Had

November 13 Louise Westfall preaching on Luke 21:1-4 God of the Living

November 20 Choral presentation of Bach's cantata *Wachet Auf*; dedication of our 2017 financial commitments to Central's mission and welcome to new members.

November 27 First Sunday of Advent, Louise Westfall preaching on Romans 13:11-14 Time Traveling



Our doors are open every Wednesday 11:30– 1 pm.

- *Walk the labyrinth*
- *Look at art displayed in the Sturgeon Room*
- *Just breathe in the beauty of our sanctuary or chapel.*

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

BACKPACKS FOR MAKING CHOICES

Many Thanks for the Six Filled Backpacks for Making Choices Graduates

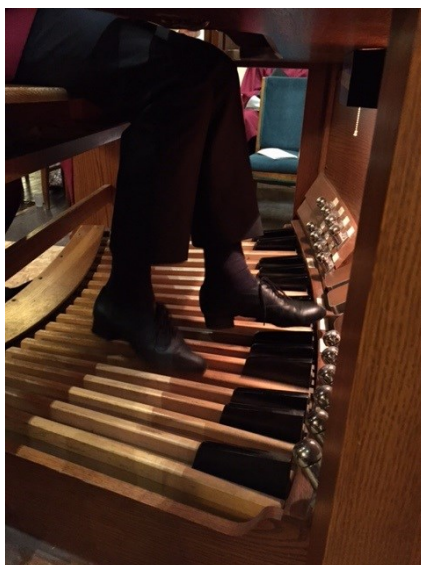
On Mission Sunday, October 9, members of the congregation filled six backpacks for Making Choices graduates who are being released from Denver Women's Correctional Facility. The complete list of basic survival items requested were donated by members of the congregation, church staff and the Deacons. Thank you very much for your generosity in showing God's love and our support to these special women.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl ministry invites you to come and learn about this ministry on Sunday, November 20th at 12:00 noon in the Shepler Heritage Center. You will have an opportunity to learn about this ministry at this gathering and to view the prayer shawls that have been made and on display in the Prayer Room.

Please Contact **Celeste Habiger** at 720 398 8025 regarding any questions.



MUSIC NOTES

Coming up in November, we have 3 very special events. First, on Friday, November 11 from 5:00-8:00 in the Sturgeon Room gallery, there will be an art reception with hors d'oeuvres featuring the work of photographer **Frank Burzynski**. His work explores the beauty and transcendence of nature through Colorado mountain landscapes. Come enjoy and be a presence at this community outreach event!

Then, on Sunday, November 20 the Chancel Choir and orchestra will present the Bach cantata, "Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme" in worship. This cantata uses the hymn of "Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds

Us" (number 349 in our hymnal) as the base for a 25-minute, multi-movement work, featuring soloists, arias, and choral fantasias--you could almost think of it as opera for the church, as Bach's style was most certainly influenced by that new art form developing at the time this was written in 1731. If you love classical music, and especially love Bach, you won't want to miss this. Please invite friends!

And last, on Friday, November 18 at 7:30, the Denver Philharmonic presents their November concert called "Pulling Out All the Stops" which will feature Central's pipe organ, along with DU organ professor, **Joseph Galema**. The concert includes Poulenc's Organ Concerto, Saint-Saën's Symphony No. 3 in C Minor "Organ Symphony," and Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin. The Denver Philharmonic routinely sells out each concert they've presented at Central, with over 1,000 people in the audience, so make sure to get tickets and arrive early!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Children

November 6

9am Breakfast Club with Mission Activities for All Ages
Choir at 9:45am and 10:10am for ages 3 years-7th grade
10:30am Communion Sunday (remain in worship with families)

November 13

9am Breakfast Club with Mission Activities for All Ages
Choir at 9:45am and 10:10am for ages 3 years-7th grade
10:45am Bible Story Room and Bible Trek (3 years-4th grade)

November 20

9am Breakfast Club with Mission Activities for All Ages
Choir at 9:45am and 10:10am for ages 3 years-7th grade
10:45am Bible Story Room and Bible Trek (3years-4th grade)

November 27

9am Breakfast Club with Mission Activities for All Ages
10:45am Bible Story Room and Bible Trek (3 years-4th grade)



Middler Youth (5th-7th Grade)

Middler Gathering

November 13th 12noon-3pm

Middlers (5th-7th grade) we will gather at Central on the 13th after worship for food, a mission project and games! We will be packing college care packages. Items that are needed include: candy (left-over Halloween candy is great!), granola bars, healthy packaged snacks, gum, pens, pencils, highlighters, sticky notes, fun novelty items, lotions, chap stick.

RSVP to stephanie@centraldenver.com

High School Youth

Youth Group

Sundays at noon

Youth Group 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.

Confirmation Update

Faith formation experiences for youth will begin in January. This month: adult mentors are being selected and trained. 2017 class members will be commissioned in December and include: **Alfredo Cortez, Remi Daniels, Jackson Malone, Ellen Clark, Olivia Earnest, Ellery Adams, and Wiley Adams**

Youth Christmas Party

December 20

We will be meeting up with some other youth groups in the presbytery to have celebrate the Christmas and the end of the school semester. See old Triennium friends! Eat lots of food! All are welcome so bring a friend!

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...

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.

Orange is Not the New Black: Life After Prison

November 13

Did you know that 52% of the women who are released from Denver Women's Correctional Facility end up back in prison? Despite this grim statistic, there are ways women increase their chances of successfully re-entering society, including participating in a decision-making training called Making Choices. Graduates of the Making Choices program successfully reenter society 90% of the time. Join us for this class to hear from two recent graduates about their successes and challenges as they were released from prison and sought to make good choices in the world outside of prison.

Faith and Star Wars

November 20 and 27

"The longing you seek is not behind you. It is in front of you." "It takes strength to resist the dark side. Only the weak embrace it. It is more powerful than you know. And those who oppose it are more powerful than you'll ever be." "Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." The themes of faith and belief are plentiful in Star Wars. Join **Sara Halon** and **James Eklund** as they lead us in an exploration of these themes. Then, join us after church on November 27 for a field trip to the Star Wars costume exhibit at the Denver Art Museum.

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 (**December 1**) at the home of **Sue Wilcox**. Contact **Pastor Louise Westfall** for more information: louise@centraldenver.com.



Star Wars and the Power of Costume – A Field Trip to the Denver Art Museum

As we dig into the themes of faith and belief in Star Wars on Sundays, November 20 and 27, join us for a field trip to the Denver Art Museum for their exhibit "Star Wars and the Power of Costume". The exhibit includes dramatic presentation of more than 70 original costumes. We will gather at DAM at 12:30pm on Sunday, November 27th to tour the exhibit together. To reserve a ticket (\$28 adult, \$5 youth, 5 and under - free), RSVP to **Anne Bond** at annewbond@aol.com. Please send checks, payable to Central Presbyterian Church, to Anne Bond, 140 Elm Street, Denver, CO 80220.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Communion

Communion will be served on **November 6**. 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, will not meet in November because the group's usual meeting date—the fourth Thursday—is Thanksgiving Day. Instead, Serendipity will meet Dec. 1 at 7 pm at the home of **Louise Westfall**, 1860 Washington St. #203, Denver 80203. All are invited (but not required) to bring two dozen homemade cookies. Everyone will be able to take cookies home. And, we will sing some Christmas carols! RSVPs to Louise at louise@centraldenver.com, 303.839.5500, ext. 102 or 216.403.3781. We build friendships through fellowship, so please join us!

In November, **Central Men's Group** will skip our usual meeting date of the fourth Thursday due to Thanksgiving Day. Instead, the group will meet Thursday, December 8, at 6 pm. **Larry Armstrong** is hosting at his home, 747 Newport Street, Denver. A-L bring a salad or appetizer; M-Z bring a dessert or beer/wine. We're following on our successful shared Fall Retreat with men of Peoples' Presbyterian and inviting them to join us. Men of all ages are welcome! RSVPs to Larry@LarryDArmstrong.com or call 303.875.7808.

Rosebuds in the "Ber" Months

This rose bush outside the downstairs window grows September into October peeking its way into November—a six feet-plus height outdistancing my own—its red-green leaves with water diamonds and six unbloomed buds are its own reward, mounted on this purpled pedestal that has survived destructive summer larvae, wicked winters and a thousand prunings.

My soul peeks through this Fall to heights of hope sporting and supporting budding redolent possibilities born of wintered extremities and summered expectations.

Lo, in my soul's Decembers, how a rose e'er blooming.

—Kent Ira Groff ©



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