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Hunger Initiative Update on
iHelp at Central Towers
 Insight on the Puerto Rico
Mission Trip



**SEARCHING FOR A DESIGNATED
ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

A Whirlwind of a Month!

The 2018 newsletters have been full of information about Central's decision to open a search for an Associate Pastor. And yet even an astute monthly reader might be surprised to hear about the progress in our search since the November newsletter went to print.

**Decision to Seek an
Associate Pastor**

In the early months of 2018, the Session was in discernment about how best to use a large financial gift. Goals were set that included growing the church's membership and worshipping community, doing more to enhance diversity, and to have a larger impact for good within our city. With those goals in mind, the Session decided to create an Associate Pastor position. It is an interesting position description, in that this pastor's time will be split roughly into two halves: fifty percent will be doing general pastoral work shared with Rev. Colby, while the other half will be focused on ministry to and with Downtown and Lowertown.

**Decision to Use the
Designated Process**

Having spent so many months in intentional conversation about how best to use this gift and whether or not to proceed to opening an Associate Pastor position, the Session wanted to see this decision enacted. As we learned about the Presbyterian process for finding a pastor, it became clear that the Designated approach seemed best for our situation. It requires a partnership with the presbytery, and we already had a strong relationship with leaders and committees. With a new position, and funding set aside for six years of time, it made sense to set a time period for this position and maintain an experimental approach. And so a four-year designated associate pastor made a lot of sense, with the opportunity and intention of having the Associate Pastor stay longer if our experiment is succeeding and the pastor and congregation are happy. And instead of a search process that could take eighteen

WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

The season of Advent begins as we light the first candle of peace. A season in which we await the coming of the Prince of Peace into our lives and born anew into our world. Rev. Colby will preach and we will celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Alternative Gift Market opens after church. Join us then at 4:00 p.m. for Tuba Christmas, sing-along, free-will donation.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

An inspirational story first told in Le Chambon, France will come to life in the children's Christmas Pageant, "Giving Dangerously." We will welcome new members and celebrate the sacrament of baptism.

Alternative Gift Market opens after church.

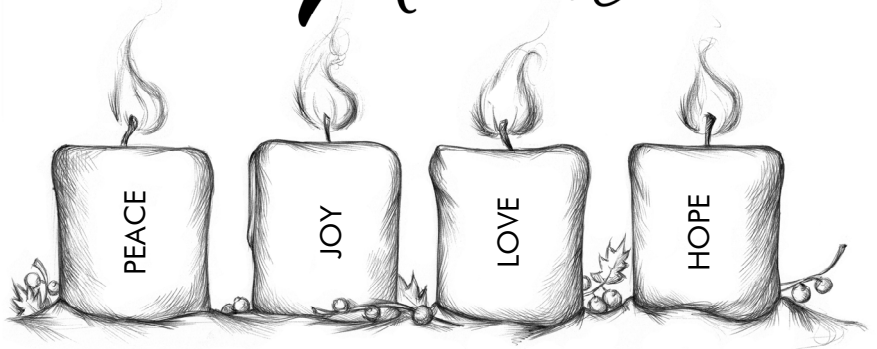
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols: A special service of music celebrating the advent of Christ, presented by the Central Choir and guest instrumentalists. Catered lunch follows; all are welcome! (Free-will donation).

Alternative Gift Market opens after church. Gifts and contributions to the Giving Tree are due this day.

THE SEASON OF

Advent



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

On this fourth Sunday in Advent we will light the candles for peace, hope, joy and love. Rev. Colby will preach. Anthony Healy, jazz piano, Laura Betinis Healy, vocalist and the Central Choir will provide music.

All church caroling will follow worship at Central Towers.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Worship at 4:00 p.m. with carols and a professional vocal quartet. Worship at 10:30 p.m. with candlelight, Central Choir, and organ. Musical prelude 15 minutes prior to worship.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

This will be a chance to sing lots of Christmas carols in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. The Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins will preach.

Denise is a retired chaplain, a former Moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, and has been the presbytery leader working closely with Central's Designated Associate Pastor search process.

Education for All Ages 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship 11:30 a.m.

HELP SESSION WITH 2019 BUDGET PLANNING AND SUBMIT YOUR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE BY DECEMBER 10.

Pledges are also welcome after this date, but in having them by December 10 Session can more accurately lay financial plans for the coming year.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON AT CENTRAL

Enjoy these special events at Central with your family and friends.

TUBACHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 2 - 4:00 p.m.

Our annual tradition of hosting TubaChristmas continues as we welcome over 120 low-brass players to our sanctuary. The concert features well-known Christmas Carols played in 4-part harmony by players of all levels. Free-will offering.

To Play in the Concert:

If you play Tuba, Sousaphone, Euphonium or Baritone you are invited to play. All ages welcome. (Players age range from 10 to over 80.) There will be over 100 players. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carol at 612-788-3516 or cmj01a@msn.com.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 16 - 10:30 a.m. Worship

A special service of music celebrating the advent of Christ, presented by the Central Choir and guest instrumentalists.

SONGS OF THE SEASON: CAROLS BY MINNESOTANS

December 20 - 7:30 p.m.

Named "most imaginative classical holiday program" by the Star Tribune, and performed to overflow audiences for the past six years, The Schubert Club's annual Songs for the Season program features winter songs and carols by more than a dozen Minnesota composers and songwriters. This year's program features music composed and arranged by Central's Composer-in-

Residence Abbie Betinis, Bob Dylan, Neal & Leandra, and even John Denver, who temporarily made Minnesota home.

This year, due to audience demand, Schubert Club is expanding to add a second performance at the historic Central Presbyterian Church. Central Choir will be a guest choir for this event. The concert is free and open to the public.

ALL CHURCH CAROLING

December 23 - Following Worship

Join members of the choir, kids, adults, friends and not-yet-friends for a short time of singing favorite Christmas Carols for our neighbors at Central Towers (Senior Apartments and Assisted Living across the street from Central). All voices are welcome and encouraged, and a special invitation to our children – kids bring a special joy to our older friends! Parents, please make sure to accompany your kids for this special event.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

December 2, 9, 16 - After Worship

December 5, 12 - During Lunch

During the coffee and fellowship time following worship, as well as during Wednesday Lunch on December 5 and 12, Central's annual Alternative Gift Market will offer many ways to give and share this Christmas!

- Donate to worthy causes, such as Heifer Project (buy a goat!), Martha's Closet, and VocalPoint

- Make or purchase mittens, gloves, hats, scarves.... And place on the Mitten Tree
- Or, do some Christmas shopping for Fair Trade items that support our neighbors in other parts of the world. There is beautiful handcrafted jewelry, gifts for the home, and yummy foods from all over the globe.

THE GIVING TREE

This year, the Giving Tree will support and benefit two groups. First, Central will partner with the Ramsey County Department of Health and Human Services to help families in need. Gifts should be wrapped and returned by December 16. Please include the receipts along with the gift so exchanges can be made if needed. Central is also partnering with the Family Place to provide Welcome Home gifts to help those moving into new homes. Those gifts should be left unwrapped and returned also by December 16.

Cards of requested items can be picked up from the tree in the Friendship Room. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Ishizuka at ishiz001@umn.edu and have a Merry Christmas!



Give something
unexpected
this
Christmas.

DECK THE HALLS AT CENTRAL

Come one, come all for Central's Deck the Halls celebration! On December 8, there will be activities for everyone! Read on for information about the schedule and activity options. We'll see you there!

PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Children in the Christmas Pageant will gather in the sanctuary for a final dress rehearsal starting at **9:30 a.m.** We would love 4 or 5 parents volunteers to help with costumes as well as help groups move to their places as we walk through the play.

BRUNCH

Please join us in the Dining Room at **9:45 a.m.** for greetings and punch; then at 10:00 we will have a wonderful meal, prepared by our amazing chefs and sponsored by the Women of Central. Kids will join us

after their rehearsal. At 10:30, the North Suburban Chorus will provide a program of music for all ages!

Brunch tickets will be available on Sunday December 2 after worship and also at the door on December 8. Ticket prices:

- Adults - \$10.00
- Children under 12 - FREE
- Decorating Volunteers - \$8.00

Mitten Tree - We will collect mittens, hats, scarves and socks for The Family Place at the brunch.

DECORATING

Beginning at **11:15 a.m.**, we need lots of volunteers to hang greenery outside, garlands and bows on the balcony railing, poinsettias placed and swags hung in the sanctuary, trees and crèche set up in the Friendship Room and the lower

entry, and of course decorating the tree.

To sign up as a volunteer, go to www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. This is a great way to get to know people in our congregation and to have fun creating the holiday setting at Central!

During decorating, kids are invited to Christmas activities in the Orange Room and Lounge.

FOR MORE INFO

- BRUNCH AND MITTEN TREE
Sue Hoffman - 612-998-6389
syrunkel@comcast.net
- PAGEANT REHEARSAL
Jessica Jones
jessicagracejones@gmail.com
- DECORATING
Charrie Willis - 651-226-7687
willis.carl@comcast.net

DECEMBER 8, 2019

Deck the Halls!

SCHEDULE

- Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 a.m.
- Brunch with Music 9:45 a.m.
- Decorating 11:15 a.m.

BRUNCH TICKETS

Adults \$10
Under 12 Free
\$2 Discount for Volunteers

www.centralforgood.org/volunteer

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This fall we have been exploring the theme of Central 360 and thinking multi-directionally about the church and our impact on the city and world. Looking to our past and ahead to our future. Connecting what we are about with what we can see to the north, south, east and west. We fully believe that we are in the city for good – that together we can create beauty, peace, and justice. That through our cooperative efforts, we can change lives for the better by our efforts to address problems of hunger and homelessness.

Central’s mission and ministry rely upon the generosity of members and friends. With great optimism and

anticipation, we are looking to finish 2018 in a strong position and with momentum toward the coming year. Because we believe that stewardship, intentional generosity, is a spiritual discipline, we really encourage the practice of pledging for the coming year. So we encourage you to be thoughtful, prayerful and then intentional about

what and how you can give in 2019. We are also committed to helping people find ways to give that our convenient and smart.

Please consider what you can contribute. Together we can accomplish more than any of us alone.



SUPPORTING CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

My Stewardship Pledge for 2019 is \$ _____ per week / month / year. *(circle one)*

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

Email: _____

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Please give me a box of weekly offering envelopes.
- I want to pay monthly by direct debit transfer.
(Download form on website at www.centralforgood.org/ACH-Form.pdf)
- Please call me about donating stock or other investments.
- I want to make donation by credit card through PayPal.
(To do so, go to www.centralforgood.org/donate)
- I would like to make a special year-end gift of \$ _____.



Complete and return to Sunday worship offering plate or Central office by December 10th.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 [SEARCH FOR A DESIGNATED ASSOCIATE PASTOR]

months, it seemed possible, even likely, that the search could be completed in less than half of that time.

The Process Begins

Central's Personnel Committee had helped the Session consider various possibilities for the Associate Pastor portfolio earlier this year. As the Session developed five goals for the next era, we had been intentional in exploring our strengths and weaknesses, our neighborhood and demographics, and how we were unique as a congregation. So by the time the Session voted to open the position, we had the pieces in place to write our Ministry Information Form (or MIF) that would be used to describe our position to potential applicants. Our position went live in August, we began talking to people locally and around the country about this position, and the presbytery formed a Designated Associate Pastor Task Force to receive and review applications (Pastoral Information Forms, or PIFs to use the jargon) with an eye toward forwarding finalists on to Central.

Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Formed

Early this fall, Central's Nominating Committee was hard at work to identify and nominate people to serve as elders and deacons. About that same time, the Personnel Committee, in conversation with the Nominating Committee so as not to interfere, began to identify people to recommend to the Session to serve as the Designated Associate Pastor

Nominating Committee (or DAPNC). The goal was to have a group large enough to be representative of the congregation, yet small enough to act quickly and nimbly. We wanted people of different ages, different interests and church experience. We wanted to have some people currently serving on Session and some not. With this position focused on Downtown and Lowertown, we wanted people who work and live near the church on this search team.

Meanwhile the Presbytery Task Force was hard at work reviewing resumes and finding what they believed to be a pretty deep pool of applicants. Then, one day after Central's October Session meeting, the Task Force met, and decided that they were ready to hand to Central six people they felt were deserving of phone interviews.

We kicked into high gear, creating a timeline of what needed to happen and in what order, clearing dates for phone interviews, and confirming potential DAPNC members could be available on those dates. At a special Session meeting on October 28, the DAPNC was appointed by the Session. (See page 5 for a team picture and short bios of the DAPNC members.)

DAPNC Begins Its Work

The DAPNC met for an introduction and orientation meeting on Thursday, November 1. Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins participated and offered background on the

presbytery's process to-date. We familiarized ourselves with the steps involved in the designated process, the materials that had been submitted, a handy vocabulary sheet listing out all the acronyms you have experienced in this article and more, and the materials about the initial set of six interviewees. The DAPNC developed interview questions and a matrix for ranking the interviews.

A first round of phone interviews was held on November 7 and 8. The Presbytery Task Force has continued to receive and read resumes and PIFs, and may forward more for the DAPNC's consideration. With Rev. Dunbar-Perkins' suggestion, we requested that a cutoff date of November 13 be set for receiving resumes and PIFs.

The Next Steps for the DAPNC

Next steps include phone interviews with any second wave of applicants forwarded to the DAPNC, and then a second round of video interviews.

Please keep the DAPNC and applicants in your prayers as we seek the pastor we believe God is preparing for leadership at Central.



MEET CENTRAL'S DAPNC

GIFTY AMARTEIFIO is originally from Ghana, but after 25+ years in the snowy state, feels like a native Minnesotan. She has been attending Central since she was a young girl, and has fond memories of growing up in this church community. She works as a research and evaluation specialist at a small firm in Minneapolis.

BRUCE BEESE is a lifelong Presbyterian and has been a member of Central for thirty-plus years. Over that time he has filled many roles: Trustee, Usher, Elder, past DPNC Chair and Clerk of Session. He works not far from the church in downtown Saint Paul. "Together with my wife Margaret, twenty-somethings Megan and Ben and our beagle Buddy I live in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood west of downtown. I enjoy several hobbies including golfing, biking and keeping a 1968 Oldsmobile running."

KIERA FAYE is a filmmaker living in the heart of Downtown St Paul. She grew up in rural Minnesota, and moved to Saint Paul with her husband in 2016 after 8 years in Orange County, California. She loves the opportunities that Central offers to put faith into action, including volunteering with the Project Home shelter during the month of November, and the recent trip to Añasco, Puerto Rico, in support of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Kiera is excited to take part in the next chapter in the life of Central Presbyterian Church and its mission in the Downtown community where she lives.

FLURYANNE LEACH grew up in the Twin Cities but left to go to college and didn't return until 2013 when she retired. Her husband and her live with their Newfoundland dog Orson just south of St. Paul now. She is a nurse with a career spent primarily working for the VA and the Department of Defense. Fluryanne and her husband joined Central Presbyterian Church in 2014. She is currently on Session and chair the Facilities Management and Risk Assessment committee and is also a member of the Personnel and Finance Committees.

STEWART (STU) SIEBELL is a former Fortune 500 Chairman and CEO who now runs a management Consulting business. Stu is married, has two grown daughters and one grandchild. Stu and his wife Sally live on a horse farm, and raise Arabian show horses and German

Shepherd dogs. Stu and Sally enjoy their family, the outdoors, especially kayaking and canoeing on Lake Superior.

REV. DR. DAVID COLBY – you can call him David or Dave or Rev. Colby or whatever. He is in his fourteenth year at Central and more excited now than ever about the opportunities in front of us. His wife Laura and he have two kids (ages 11 and 8). He loves Saint Paul and serving an urban church. He also loves finding peace and beauty in the wilderness, especially on backpacking trails (Minnesota has a great one!) and fly-fishing on streams.

We are grateful to the **REV. DENISE DUNBAR-PERKINS**, who chairs the Presbytery's Designated Pastor Task Force, and has been invaluable in her assistance and wisdom.



*Back (L to R) Denise Dunbar-Perkins, Fluryanne Leach, Bruce Beese, Gifty Amarteifio
Front (L to R) Stu Siebell, Kiera Faye, Rev. David Colby*

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

To see and download more photos from this worship service and other Central events, visit our website at:

www.centralforgood.org/photos



WOMEN OF CENTRAL

Due to the many activities of the holiday season, there will not be a Women's Networking Dinner or Knitting Group meeting in December.

However, they will both will return in January, so watch for next month's newsletter for schedule, places and details!

CHRISTMAS GREENERY & POINSETTIAS

Orders are due by Monday, December 17.

This year, we continue with a Central tradition to decorate our sanctuary and church with greenery and poinsettias. To donate (perhaps in memory or honor of a loved one), simply complete the following form and return with payment to the office or to the offering plate. Christmas decorations will start to take their place around the church during our *Deck the Halls* event on December 8.

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

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

| PLANT | PRICE EACH | QUANTITY | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Small Poinsettia (5-7 blooms) | \$ 9.00 | | |
| Large Poinsettia (10-18 blooms) | \$17.00 | | |
| Evergreen Swag | \$12.00 | | |
| Evergreen Wreath | \$25.00 | | |

TOTAL DUE \$ _____



Checks should be made payable to
Central Presbyterian Church.

*Return orders to the Sunday worship
offering plate or direct to the office.*



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www.centralforgood.org



SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS EMAILS
www.centralforgood.org/newsletter



EMAIL QUESTIONS ANYTIME
office@cpcstpaul.org

WELCOME GUEST MUSICIANS!

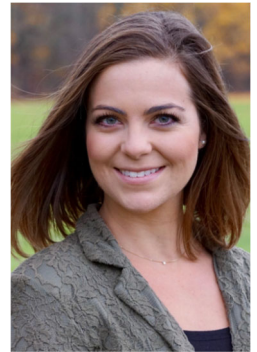
On Sunday, December 23, Central welcomes guest musicians, Anthony Healy, jazz pianist, and Laura Betinis Healy, vocal soloist, to worship.

ANTHONY HEALY

A Boston native, Anthony earned his masters degree in Jazz Piano Performance from Western Michigan studying under Jeremy Siskind. Anthony worked as a music teacher in the Belmont, Needham, and Westborough school districts, and appeared regularly as a soloist and collaborative pianist in various Boston area venues.

Anthony has had the opportunity to share the stage with many of today's leading performers, including Randy Brecker, Deborah Brown, George Young, Peter Eldridge, and Edward Simon. He's appeared as both a soloist and a clinician for the Gilmore Keyboard Festival, and has toured with Western Michigan's premier Latin Jazz ensemble, Mas Que Nada,

internationally. Anthony currently serves on the music education faculty at Western Michigan, and also teaches piano classes through the Gilmore Education Program. Learn more about Anthony at www.anthonhealypiano.com.



LAURA BETINIS HEALY

Laura, a mezzo, praised for her "particularly rich tone" (The Tech, MIT), made "all the more beautiful by the edge of folk styling" (Boston Musical Intelligencer), has performed with chamber and choral ensembles throughout the Northeast and Midwest.

As an active soloist in the Boston area, Laura has been featured with the Oriana Consort, King's Chapel Choir, and Cappella Clausura, with whom she recorded The Complete Vespers of Cozzolani, and appeared as Anima ("the soul") in

the staged Hildegard von Bingen opera Ordo Virtutum.

In 2015, Laura premiered her sister Abbie's new Christmas carol on Minnesota Public Radio, along with jazz pianist Anthony Healy, and soprano Carrie Henneman Shaw. Last year, Laura appeared on the Minnesota Orchestra's Inside the Classics program.

A graduate of Ithaca College with degrees in Music and English, she currently lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

November brought a large gathering for the monthly Women's Networking Group at the Union Depot Bar & Grill.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOK GROUP

Book group will meet Tuesday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. The December title will be David Silva's *The Other Woman*.

DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Bring your own lunch. We will be studying Lesson 4.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Wilder Foundation's Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers to deliver lunch -- and a

smile, and kind words -- to homebound older adults and those with limited mobility in Saint Paul neighborhoods. Your gift of time not only brings a nutritious meal, it helps break the isolation and add quality to clients' lives.

- Drivers deliver from 10:30 a.m. - noon weekdays. Routes typically take an hour or less.
- Drivers can deliver daily, weekly, monthly, or as desired.
- Drivers must have a valid driver's license and pass a criminal background check.

If you have any questions, call Grant at 651-280-2504 or send an email to grant.watkins@wilder.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Avis Tilden 11/3
 Benjamin Hanscom 12/1
 Isaac Fisher 12/1
 Matt Ehling 12/3
 Carl Peterson 12/3
 Andrea Lawson 12/6
 Christopher Bremicker 12/7
 Sharon Zopfi-Jordan 12/8
 Craig Muntifering 12/8
 Alfred Zdrzil 12/8
 Thea Berg 12/8
 Addison Kannapiran 12/9
 Annabelle Endres 12/9
 Jane Lonergan 12/10
 Joan Kelly 12/10
 Kathy Barker 12/11
 Tennyson Gould 12/11
 Allie Pyan 12/12
 Natalie Klaehn 12/13
 Richard Wheeler 12/14

Micah Johnson 12/15
 Bonnie Joyce 12/16
 Beth Gould 12/16
 Isabella Hanscom 12/18
 Jeff Zeise 12/18
 Jennifer Tikka 12/19
 Carl Willis 12/19
 Shaylynn Williams 12/20
 Virgie Bundy 12/21
 Maureen Smith 12/22
 Johann Toikka 12/24
 Lillian Sanders 12/25
 Matt Jagger 12/28
 Ben Jagger 12/28

If we missed your name, please send us a note so that we can correct our records:

CENTRAL TEAM

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. David Colby, Pastor
dcolby@cpcstpaul.org, ext 102

Maureen Smith, Pastoral Associate
mcsmith@tc.umn.edu

Parish Associates: Rev. Casey Wells,
 Rev. Doug Throckmorton

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@cpcstpaul.org, ext 100

Christie Rachele, Communications
cpc@christierachele.com

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
 William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus

Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist

Patrick Cook, Sexton

MUSIC

Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music
jennifera@cpcstpaul.org, ext 103

Section Leaders: Shanta Hejmadi,
 Abbie Betinis, Adam Van der Sluis,
 Steve Swanson, David Winkworth

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Eric Juvonen, Child & Youth
 Ministries Coordinator

Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

FOOD INITIATIVE

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager
Barb.westman@gmail.com, ext 114

Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef

Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

MARTHA'S CLOSET

Sandy White, Director
wjands7@aol.com, ext 112



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

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Thank you Sharon Knowlton, Stu Siebell and all of the other evening and overnight host volunteers who have helped to manage the Project Home shelter at Central for children and families experiencing homelessness. Please hold our guests in your prayers as they move to another host church in December.

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*