



Central Today

February 2018

www.cpcstpaul.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:30 AM

At the end of February (the 25th), I will preach on the story of the call of God to old Abram and Sarai. To this unlikely elderly couple, God offers a promise that they will become the ancestors of a great people. They may be the first in the Scriptures, but they will not be the only unlikely candidates called by God to do great and surprising things. I take great hope from this story.

Thirteen years ago, on February 1, 2005, I began as Central's designated pastor. My charge was to help this old historic church live or die, with courage and grace. It was to be a four year experiment. And one of the first passages I preached on was this same passage of God making a new promise to an old couple. Thirteen years ago, it was an open question - did God have anything in store for this old church that had seen decades of decline?

What a wonderful experiment it has been. We felt the freedom to try new things and to take risks. To really pray and dream and wonder what kind of church God was calling us to be in a new century in a downtown that at times felt full of new beginnings. It has required discipline and discernment to stay bold and prudent at the same time. To take calculated risks, to keep programming up (toward the church we think God is calling us to be), and to embrace new possibilities when they present themselves.

I am so grateful to have been on this journey with wonderful members and friends and staff and leaders of this congregation. It has been joyful work. And important work is best done together.

We have big news inside this newsletter. News of a gift that will enable us to stabilize our finances and at the same time enable us to entertain new ideas and once again dream big dreams - to try to keep up with the hopes and expectations that God has for this church. The session and staff will be working together to reflect upon the values that have both sustained and identified who we are as a community of faith, and to think about goals for the future and how best to be stewards of this gift and of all the generosity with which we have been blessed.

There are a lot of great things happening at Central right now. If you have been around for a while, I hope you will find ways to deepen your connections to others and to God through some of the opportunities in these pages. If you are reading this for the first time, welcome - and we look forward to having you begin to get connected and put your faith into action with us.

See you at Central!
David Colby

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Worship

**JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP!
SUNDAYS AT
10:30 AM**

**Sunday
Morning
Schedule**

**9:30 Education
For All Ages**

10:30 Worship

**11:30 Fellowship
& Coffee**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

We will look at patterns of acts of holy strength paired with retreat for prayer and wisdom. This can be seen from early on in the Gospel of Mark (1:29-39) and is given voice by the prophet Isaiah. "Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isa. 40:30). On a day when the world's attention will be focused on the Twin Cities for the big football game, Central's youth will help us to participate in the national Souper Bowl of Caring event (see page __ for more details). And during worship, we will share a simple meal of bread and juice -- communion. Ars Nova Brass Quintet joins the Central Choir. In addition, we will hear our Sunday School Singers share a song in worship!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

On this VocalPoint concert weekend, in which this year's theme is "We Rise," we will begin Sunday morning by looking at passages of people rising. In the church calendar, it is Transfiguration Sunday, and we will hear the gospel reading of Jesus rising up a mountain with three of the disciples, and there, high on the mountain, he was changed before their very eyes (Mark 9:2-9). This gospel story recalls the story we will also hear in which the prophet Elijah is taken up to heaven while his disciple Elisha asks for a double portion of his prophetic spirit (2 Kings 2:1-12)

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Some people celebrate Valentine's Day with chocolate and flowers. Here at Central, we will begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday services on February 14. We will have a short midday service at 12:30 in the sanctuary. In the evening, people are invited to join for a simple dinner at six, prior to our 7:00 evening service.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The first Sunday in Lent begins with Jesus out in the desert, with sand and wind and the noises of the wilderness. There Jesus would be tempted, and in this event similar to a vision quest, Jesus learns more about his identity and what God will call him to do. Rev. Colby will preach. Central Choir sings.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

There is an adage that asks if an old dog can learn new tricks. The Bible would say yes. One of the foundational stories is about the covenant between God and old childless Abram and Sarai. To this unlikely couple, God promises that they will become the ancestors of a great family. And this story of God working new beginnings out of unlikely situations will continue throughout the scriptures and right into our current context. What surprising things might God be calling us to do together? Central Choir sings.

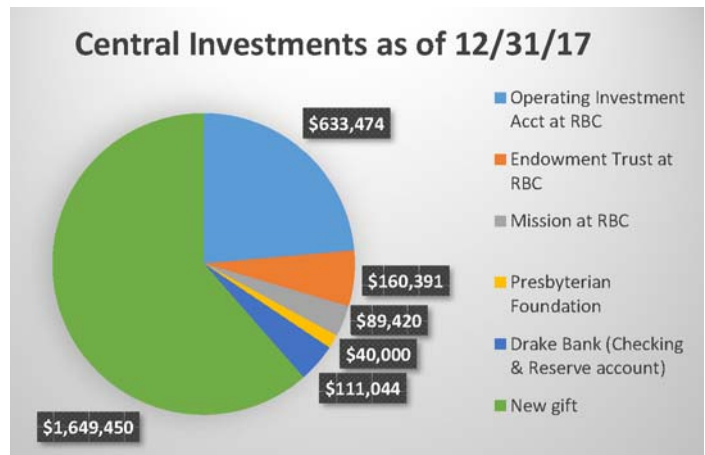
Central Receives \$1.65 Million Dollar Gift!

Our recent history has been one of rather dramatic transformation. More than a decade ago, when Reverend Colby was brought in to see if Central would "live or die with dignity," the Session decided that there was no purpose served in going out of business with money in the bank. Central had an investment portfolio made up of gifts from past eras of the church's history, which was available for use. And so these gifts were put to work! Investments were made in staffing, programming and the church's vitality, that have paid off many times over in new membership, mission and services to our city. Without the gifts from donors of those past eras and the stewardship of those who kept them intact for decades -- and then decided to use them -- Central may not have survived.

In 2015, the Finance & Stewardship committee found Central at a turning point: no longer at risk of closure, we were now at risk of outliving our resources! We would only be able to continue our investment spending (around \$100,000/ year) at the same rate for a year or two longer. The committee completed a step-down spending plan to reduce dependence on investment funds and ease our transition. This congregation responded with increased contributions that have helped turn this corner and minimize cuts to core programs.

At this important moment in early 2016, Central received an anonymous gift of \$500,000. After many months of discernment, Session voted to add \$425,000 to our investment strategy, essentially replenishing our investments and ensuring a moderate but steady and sustainable source of income for the church. Other funds were used for the new sound system and a new fire protection system. These invested funds generated earnings throughout 2017, \$50,000 of which has now been set aside to fund 2018 operations. Central had arrived at stability and predictability -- how wonderful!

Today we are entering yet another stage. Central has received a gift of assets, which to date have totaled \$1.65 million. As the following chart shows, this more than doubles our current investment holdings. What remarkable generosity and faith in the future of this church!



Session will again enter a phase of discernment in determining what is next for this gift. At the suggestion of our investment advisors (Lambert Dickson group of RBC), \$750,000 of the gift has been invested in line with our current strategy. The remaining \$900,000 will stay in a shorter term CD until decisions are made by the Session about purpose and time horizon. At that point, Finance & Stewardship will work with Lambert Dickson to decide whether to invest in the market or keep funds in a more conservative instrument. Additionally, we have only liquidated 2/3 of the original asset. The value of the remaining 1/3 also may be able to move Central's mission forward.

We are very excited about the upcoming possibilities for Central. There will be opportunities for input and ideas about our future. We hope you will join with us in thankfulness for this abundance and prayers for discernment for how it can be used to further God's will in our city and our world.

Welcome to Central!



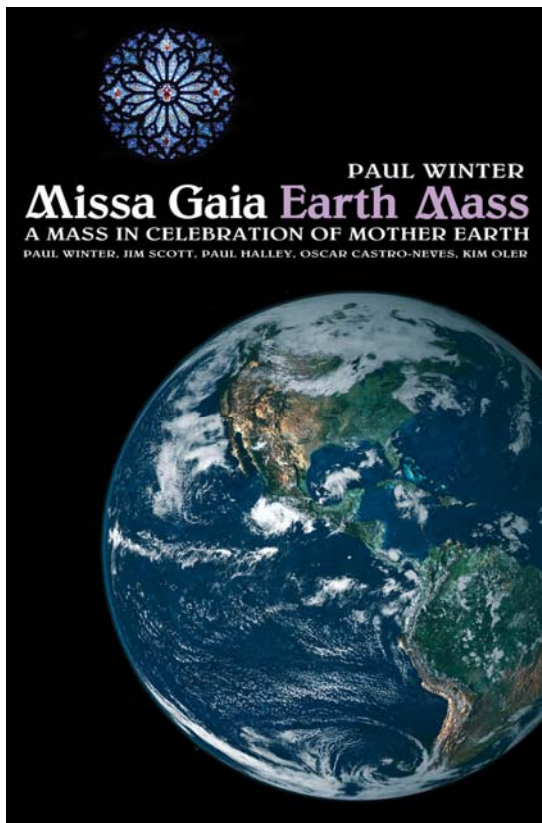
**Steve Kesner,
Sexton / Custodian**



**Christie Rachele,
Communications**

Steve and his wife, Elise, moved from Chicago IL. He writes, "I am an avid Cubs and Blackhawks fan. I love to fish and with my wife we enjoy camping, hiking and anything outdoors. Elise and I are also Civil War reenactors. We portray what life was like on and off the battlefield as well as on the home front. It entails wearing period clothing, eating period food, and portraying them as closely as possible. I'm happy to be here at Central to serve God and the congregation."

Christie is a freelance photographer, strategic marketing and graphic design professional. She is an empty nester with four grown children, a grand puppy and grand kitty. She is a vegetarian, painter, seamstress, philomath, volunteer, Blue Star Mother and collector of pebbles she finds along her life's path. She adores her church home at Hosanna in Lakeville, but is excited to spend time getting to know Central, its staff, volunteers, and members.



Be a Part of Earth Mass!

Singers are invited to join the choir and chamber ensemble for Paul Winter's "Earth Mass" as we celebrate Earth Day on April 22. This unique piece features sounds from nature incorporated into the piece, including wolf howls and whale sounds. It uses texts from St. Francis of Assisi, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, traditional Latin Mass, and contemporary texts to convey the beauty of our created world and gratitude to our Creator.

Rehearsals (must attend 4 of 6)

- * Wednesday, March 14 from 7:15 – 8:15
- * Wednesday, March 21 from 7:15 – 8:15
- * Wednesday, April 4 from 7:15 – 8:15
- * Wednesday, April 11 from 7:15 – 9:00
- * Wednesday, April 18 from 7:15 – 9:00
- * Saturday, April 21 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

We sing in worship, Sunday, April 22 at 10:30 a.m.
Call is 9:00. a.m.

Interested in joining us? Please let Jennifer Anderson know by Feb. 25 by email to jennifera@cpctstpaul.org or 651-224-4728 ext 103.

The Session Gets Organized for 2018

At its January meeting, the Session convened and organized itself to do efficient and effective ministry in 2018. The Presbyterian Book of Order describes the leadership provided by the elders who make up the Session, or governing board, for the church. "As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life."

Serving on the Session is one way to be involved in ministry and leadership at Central, and we are grateful to those who are called, elected, and installed in these positions. But, our Session also hopes to involve many other members and friends of Central in the work of the church. The following people will serve as leaders of the following committees, and many of those work teams would love to have other people helping them dream and evaluate and plan and execute.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE [Stu Siebell]

This committee is responsible for ensuring effective staffing for the church, and to oversee an annual evaluation process for each staff member. Some aspects of the work of this committee is highly confidential.

WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND ARTS

[Jackie Klaehn]

This committee oversees big-picture worship and arts planning and coordinates the work of ushers and communion preparation.

NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

[Alex Bollman]

This committee will engage visitors, host Inquirers' Classes, and help new members assimilate. This committee is charged with recruiting and training people for Project Home and ongoing tasks in the church (such as ushers and coffee preparers).

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

[Kati Berg]

This committee oversees all the programs that Central offers for children and youth.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

[Laura Nichols-Endres]

This committee analyzes and recommends the strategic use of financial resources. With the treasurer, this committee interprets income, expenses and financial realities and priorities to the boards and to the congregation.

COORDINATED MISSION

[Sharon Zopfi-Jordan]

Central does lots of mission, or community outreach through the use of our building, our dollars, and our volunteer time. The job of this committee is to coordinate, implement and execute our mission or community serving efforts, so that we can be most effective.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND RISK

ASSESSMENT [Fluryanne Leach]

Working with the Building Superintendent, this committee addresses building and safety issues. In 2018, thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, this committee will engage an historic architect to survey the exterior of our building and recommend necessary projects.

If you want to learn more or get involved, you can contact them directly, or email the Central office at office@cpctstpaul.org to get connected.

Book Discussion for *Waking Up White*

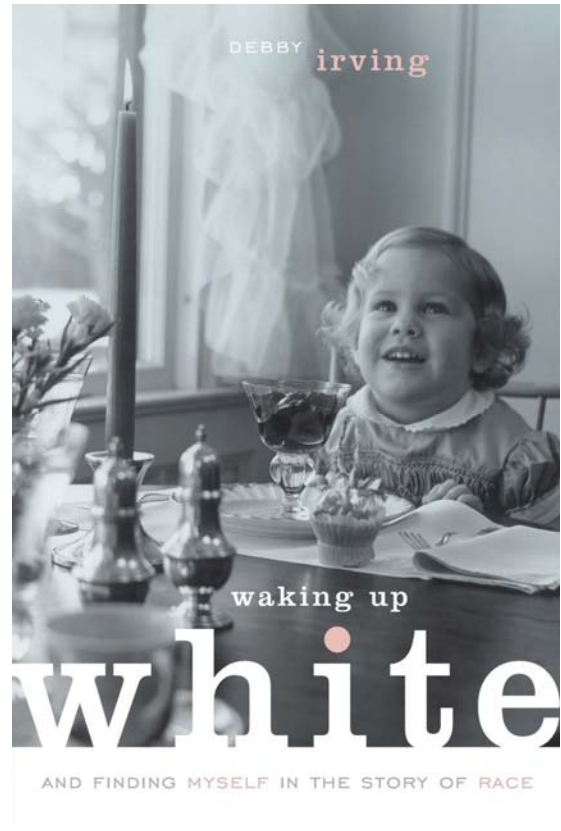
The Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church have encouraged the church to read and discuss the book *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving (Elephant Room Press, 2014).

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that “it is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o’clock on Sunday morning.” Much has changed since. But, much has not. If the church is to be involved in the work of justice and racial understanding and reconciliation in our society, we must engage in some self-examination and learning.

Van Jones writes, “Irving’s focus on the mechanics of racism operating in just one life—her own – may lead white readers to consider the roots of their own perspectives—and their role in dismantling old myths. Readers of color will no doubt find the view through Irving’s window fascinating and telling.

Three one-hour discussions will be held. For this conversation to work well, participants should plan to read the 288 page book.

The Coordinated Mission Committee purchased five copies of this book that are available to be borrowed. They are on the bookshelves in the Friendship Room (on the far right shelf) and can be signed out for up to two weeks.



**Discussions will be held
Sundays, February 25, March 4, and 11
Following Worship, Meet in the Lounge**

SAVE THE DATE!

FALL FAMILY RETREAT
September 21 – 23, 2018

*More information will be provided closer to this date.
Contact April Greibrok at aprilg@cpctstpaul.org with questions*

Summer at Clearwater Forest Camp

Registration for summer camp has opened! Clearwater is busy preparing for yet another incredible year of outdoor ministry and personal growth for those who attend!

With the theme, "Light the Fire," Clearwater will be exploring the big questions surrounding how we can impact the world with the light of Christ. This theme will come to life at camp as we connect with each other, build new relationships, strengthen existing ones, grow with Christ, and develop a community committed to demonstrating Christ's love. Mark your calendars now for Clearwater's Friends and Family Day, Saturday, June 9th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Come spend the day walking the

grounds, meeting their summer staff, participating in their commissioning, and signing up for some of Clearwater's programs.

Summer camps available for all ages and families! Learn more at www.clearwaterforest.org or find them on Facebook.

Several families have already signed up for the week of July 29- August 4. If your child would like to go with a buddy this is a good week to consider. If you need help covering the cost of camp please let April Greibrok know at aprilg@cpkstpaul.org or 651-224-4728 ext 109. We have scholarship funds to help make sure camp can



Vacation Bible School

ENJOY EVERYTHING WONDERFUL ABOUT CAMP AT PRESBYTERIAN CLEARWATER FOREST, BUT RIGHT HERE AT CENTRAL THROUGH CLEARWATER'S CAMP-IN-A-VAN!

DON'T MISS OUT!

- Games
- Worship
- Small group Bible study
- Arts and crafts
- Snacks
- Storytime
- Recreation

When? June 18–22, 2018

Who? Kids completed grades K-6

What? A fun quality Christian ministry experience building relationships with young adult role models as well as the people within the congregation.

If you have questions, contact April Greibrok, Child and Youth Coordinator at aprilg@cpkstpaul.org or 651-224-4728 ext 109.

Women of Central News

Women's Networking Dinner

We had a great time at Ruam Mit Thai – even on a very cold evening! Here is the lineup for our next events.



February 7
 Babani Kurdish Restaurant
 32 East Fillmore Ave, St. Paul



March 8
 Moscow on the Hill
 371 Selby Ave, St. Paul



April 4
 Downtowner Woodfire Grill
 253 West 7th Street, St. Paul



Join us for these upcoming events!

Please RSVP to the church office or to Sue Hoffman (612-998-6389 or syhoffman123@comcast.net), as it helps us get a count for a table reservation. Join the

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you to the many people who knit or crocheted hats and mittens for our Mitten Tree! Central's prayer shawl ministry combines compassion and the love of knitting and crocheting into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace.

Our next **4th Sunday Knitting group** will meet on February 27th after worship. Join us!

Book group will meet Feb. 13 and 27 at 10:30 in the Friendship Room. February's selection is Commonwealth by Ann Patchett.

Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, Feb. 8 at 11:30. Bring your own lunch. Coffee will be provided. We will be looking at lesson six.



Happy Birthday!

Ingrid Bollman	2/3	Christopher Amarteifio.....	2/14
Marlena Haugen	2/3	Laura Williams.....	2/15
Laura Varanasi	2/4	Ian Berg	2/17
Veronica Amarteifio	2/5	Jon Juffer	2/17
Lois McLaughlin.....	2/7	Sara Bartlett	2/18
Kris Baird	2/9	Eddie Sanders.....	2/18
Ryan Kimani.....	2/9	Barbara Swanson	2/19
Melissa Varanasi	2/9	Ellie Schlittenhart.....	2/20
George Lonergan	2/10	Lynne Severson.....	2/23
Margo Nicoll	2/10	Nora Welch.....	2/24
Victoria Pyan.....	2/11	Solveig Johnson.....	2/25
Ned Taylor.....	2/13		

*If we erroneously missed your name, please send us a note so that we can correct our records:
office@cpcstpaul.org*

Welcome to Central's Newest Members!

Wendy Flinner - Born and raised in Crosby, Minnesota and attended Bemidji State University, where I sang in the choir. Taught in Janesville, MN before moving to St. Paul with hubby, Mark. We raised three children: Alex, Nick, and Jenelle. For many years I was the Music Director at North Emmanuel Lutheran Church, before its closing, and taught music for St. Paul Public Schools. Music is important and I love to sew and create with fabric, especially things for our two grandchildren.

Mark Flinner - Wendy and I have lived in St. Paul since 1984 when our first child was born. During the time since then (besides working for MnDOT) I was Dad, husband, scout leader, vegetable gardener, church leader and musician, and now grandfather. Central Presbyterian now presents us with fresh opportunities to further explore God's call to serve others and each other in the wider community with willing hands and a sense of joy.

Deborah (Deb) Flies - I grew up in southeast Minnesota in a large farm family. An interest fact about my family is that I have 11 brothers (no sisters). I have 1 son, Jesse who lives in Hollywood. I've worked and lived downtown for many years and recently bought a condo at The Pointe so Central is truly a close neighbor. I love to sing and will be joining the Central choir. I'm also looking forward to being involved the great work that Central does in the downtown community. Thanks for the warm welcome.

Farie Hogue (first name rhymes with Marie) - I moved to the Saint Paul area a little over a year ago from Columbia, South Carolina. I spent the last 20 years working in Logistics Management. I fell in love with the city and the people and decided to stay. I walked by Central many times before walking through the doors. Now that I have, I found this to be home for me! The people are very warm and friendly, and I am very excited about becoming part of the Central family.

Announcements

SOUPERBOWL OF GIVING

Super Bowl Sunday is often a day people gather with friends and family to eat and watch the final game of the year. But many people go hungry on this day and throughout the year. Central's Youth Group is helping fight hunger by collecting monetary and nonperishable food donations to the Neighborhood House food shelf.

On Sunday, February 4 youth will be wearing their favorite sports teams gear while collecting donations during coffee hour after worship. Checks should be made out to Neighborhood House. All food and money collected will be delivered to Neighborhood house on Monday, February 5.

VOCALPOINT WEEKEND!

February 10 & 11 at 4:00 pm. Tickets are on-sale online at www.vocalpointchorus.org or after worship through February 4th.

If you can help usher, please sign up on our Volunteer Sign-up under the Volunteer page on the church website at www.cpcstpaul.org.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Monday, February 12 from 6-7:30 pm. Families are invited to join in packing food for Feed My Starving Children. We will meet at the Eagan packing location shortly before 6pm, located at:

FMSC - Eagan, MN
990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136
Eagan, MN 55121

This event is open to people of all ages. Children under 12 will need a parent or other guardian to help chaperon. Contact April Greibrok if you are interest in attending. She will get you the information on how to sign up.

Thank you!

A big thank you to all the elves that magically transformed Central Presbyterian to celebrate the Christmas season and then magically made it all disappear back into closets. Elves who skillfully climbed ladders, worked with frozen fingers and added beautiful creative touches were: **Gifty Amarteifio, Rick Barker, Megan Beese, Kerry Bollman, Phyllis Brashler, Dave Colby, Dwight & Nancy Colby, Deb Flies, Mark Flinner, Mawoulawoe Foli, April & Per Greibrok, Sue & Tony Hoffman, Farie Hogue & Scott, Gina Juffer, Jackie, Scott, Natalie, & Eliana Klaehn, Mel Leach, Craig Muntifering, Jim Olson, Kate Pearce, Derek Peterson, Lynda Petrie, Dee Ann Pratt, Anna Sanchez, Kelly Smith, Avis Tilden, Laura Williams, and Carl Willis.** Thanks to you all and to any others I may have forgotten. — Charrie Willis

*And a big thank you to **Charrie Willis** for organizing and coordinating our Christmas decorating (and undecorating)!*

Thank you to **Erika Kelly-Kennedy** for your continued help organizing children and youth serving coffee and treats after worship.

Thank you **Jessica Jones** and **Per Greibrok** for helping sub in the nursery and preschool.

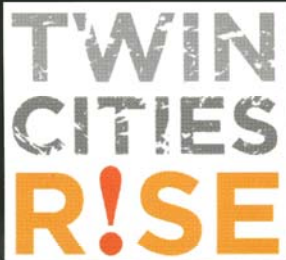
Welcome to new Sexton and Custodian, **Steve Kesner!** And thank you to all the hard-workig volunteers who vacuumed, shoveled snow, watered plants, set up risers, raked leaves and did other mundane tasks over the past few months including **Mel & Fluryanne Leach, Ned Tayler, Casey Wells, Doug Throckmorton, Per Greibrok, Jeremy Berg, Jim O'Neill, Laura Williams,** and anyone else who may have been overlooked.

VOCALPOINT'S 7TH SEASON SUPPORTING TWIN CITIES RISE



FEATURING GRAMMY-WINNING
SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS

FEBRUARY 10 AND 11
AT 4:00 P.M.



Twin Cities RISE: Building Careers. Empowering Lives.

Twin Cities RISE transforms lives through personal empowerment, career training, and meaningful employment. TCR offers a unique, holistic approach to assisting people who face social and economic barriers to employment. Their coaches provide one-on-one support, partnering with participants for two years after they've landed their new jobs. They focus on long term results with 81% of graduates staying at their jobs after one year, nearly twice the national average.

WWW.VOCALPOINTCHORUS.ORG



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

500 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
 651-224-4728 | www.cpcstpaul.org

Rev. Dr. David D. Colby, dcolby@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 102.....Pastor
 Maureen Smith, mcsmith@tc.umn.edu, ext. 118..... Pastoral Associate
 Jennifer Anderson, jennifera@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 103..... Director of Music
 Phil Romine, promine@unitedseminary.edu, ext. 117..... Pastoral Intern
 Anna Sandberg Sanchez, office@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 100 Office Manager
 Christie Rachelle, cpc@christierachelle.com..... Communications
 April Joy Greibrok, ext. 109..... Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator
 William Zopfi, billz@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 104..... Treasurer
 Steve Kesner, ext.116..... Sexton/Custodian
 Barb Westman, barb.westman@gmail.com, ext. 114..... Food Service Manager
 Sue LeClaire, ext. 114 Sous Chef
 Sandy White, wjands7@aol.com, ext. 112..... Director of Martha's Closet
 Rebecca Gudknecht.....Nursery Care Provider
 Megan Beese..... Preschool Teacher
 Mary Lange Evening Receptionist

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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