

The logo for CONNECT CENTRAL features the word "CONNECT" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular arrangement of colorful triangles in shades of purple, blue, green, yellow, and red. Below "CONNECT" is the word "CENTRAL" in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font.

WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG

JANUARY 2019

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## A MISSION IN PUERTO RICO

### NATURE CALLS

Hurricane Maria smashed into Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017 as a Category 4 storm at near peak intensity. The island's above-ground energy infrastructure was already vulnerable when the hurricane's 175 mph winds knocked out the island's entire power grid and swept apart homes and businesses.

Left in the dark, some for almost a year, Puerto Ricans scrambled to heal and rebuild with limited resources for recovery. Many did not have access to power, safe water, life-saving medical services, gasoline and food.

It is estimated that thousands died from storm-related causes and fifteen months later the island continues to suffer from infrastructure problems. Despite the slow and fragile recovery, the resilience and spirit of the Puerto Rican people remains strong and forward moving.

### PUTTING FAITH IN ACTION

Mission trips can be life-changing experiences, help foster partnerships, and put our faith or prayers into concrete actions.

Rev. Colby states, "After the devastation of Maria, it felt like the people of Puerto Rico had been abandoned by folks on the mainland. Knowing that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) had a strong foothold in small Presbyterian churches, it seemed like the perfect time to travel, learn, express compassion, and lend our time and energy to participate in the work of recovery and rebuilding."

With the help of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, areas in need of outside help were identified and a mission plan developed by Session. After review of the mission team's skillset, it was decided that Central would be going to Añasco to work with La Posada de Angeles, a mission of the First Presbyterian Church which coordinates volunteers with local requests for help.

On November 13, 2018, fifteen volunteers from Central boarded a plane headed for Añasco, unsure of the work to be done, but eager to pitch in wherever possible. When asked why she went on this trip, Mary Miller says "Church and mission are inseparable. Accomplishing mission

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## WORSHIP

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

On Epiphany, we reflect on the story of a star guiding wise ones to Jesus. The last two years we have given out 'star words' - words that serve to inspire, challenge, and make us think during the coming year, and we will again do that this Sunday. We will ordain and install elders and deacons, and celebrate communion. Central Choir sings.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

In December, we welcomed new members and celebrated the sacrament of baptism with three adults joining a church for the first time in their lives. On January 13, we will hear the story of Jesus being baptized, and the story is an opportunity to reflect on new

beginnings and the power of rituals to create a community of welcome. Central Choir sings.

Following worship, there will be a presentation about the recent mission trip to Puerto Rico to work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

In Paul's correspondence with the church in the city of Corinth, there is a great deal of concern about trying to create a vibrant, unified church rather than one that threatens to break up into factions. What does it mean to be a strong, healthy church with lots of different foci and strengths? Following worship, all are invited to partake in one of Central's strengths, a Third Sunday Lunch. Central Choir sings.

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*Education for All Ages 9:30 a.m.*

*Worship at 10:30 a.m.*

*Coffee & Fellowship 11:30 a.m.*

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### SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

It is always interesting to hear the gospel read in different voices. On this day, we hear a story of Jesus reading scripture in the temple (Luke 4:14-21). What would that sacred story have sounded like coming from his lips? How does the passage he read serve to orient his ministry? Central Choir sings, along with special guests The OK Factor. (See page 11)

## WELCOMING THE MEMBERS OF THE DAYTON AVENUE CHURCH

Throughout the summer and fall of 2018, members of St. Paul's Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church (DAPC) were engaged in difficult conversations about their future as a congregation. With a small membership and an expensive building to maintain, they made the difficult decisions to sell their church building and to bring their time as a congregation to an end. Many of the Dayton Avenue folks have been attending Central this past month,

and as a new year dawns, we will be looking for ways to learn from and include them in the life and ministry of Central.

Grief is difficult, painful, and unpredictable and this will be the case for people grieving the end of a congregation. Please be both welcoming to Dayton Avenue folks and sensitive to the grieving process as they continue to explore and share time at Central.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 [ A MISSION IN PUERTO RICO ]

is a most important function of a church that sees Jesus Christ as the model for action. I wanted to take some hope to the people of Puerto Rico; let them know they are not forgotten.” Adam Van der Sluis added “Very few people are talking about or thinking about Puerto Rico, yet more than a year after Hurricane Maria they are still rebuilding. It mattered a lot that this was an intentional trip recognizing the need for continued help there.”

**SEEING FIRST HAND**

Blue, tarp-covered rooftops still pepper the city as the plane descends on San Juan. As the team drives two hours the host site, it is clear that once-urgent, temporary fixes have become unintended long term band-aids and there is still much work to be done. “I am still surprised by the number of destroyed and damaged rooftops, an entire year after the hurricane.” recalls Eric Bartlett.

The first night, the team is welcomed by Ada Lis Luciano - the church administrator and volunteer coordinator. We hear of the island disasters and struggles after Hurricane Maria and how a team of volunteer soldiers, affectionally called the Expendables, took up housing at the church as a base and marched on foot into the mountains to provide life saving aid and help in the early days. From there, First Presbyterian Church shifted gears. It expanded from a church into a mission center to coordinate individual help requests with incoming volunteer groups. We learn that the familial culture and

history of Puerto Rico and its approach to shared property has lead to difficulties in getting FEMA assistance. (FEMA requires land titles to prove ownership before financial grants can be given. Yet, many families live in properties that have been passed from generation to generation without sales or title transfers.) This leaves many, especially in the mountains and outlying areas, struggling to find the finances and help to rebuild.

Once settled at La Posada De Angeles, Central’s group is split into two teams. One team will head into the coastal town of Aguadilla to work on a private home, while the second will work stay the city to work on the church building and the demolition of a neighboring home.

**AGUADILLA**

Working in partnership with ADRA - Adventist Development and Relief Agency International - the Aguadilla team was assigned to the private home of two elderly sisters with Alzheimer’s in hospice care. They

were constricted to hospital beds and living out of one room while they waited for their home to be rebuilt. Central’s team was asked to repaint the repaired house inside and out. Upon realizing the capability of the team, our volunteers were also asked to install a toilet and new tile so they would have a working bathroom. “I loved the friendship we built with Hector, the brother-in-law of the two sisters whose house we worked on. He was so welcoming and I think all of us who were able to work on that project came to think of him as an extended member of our mission trip team.” remarks Jess Garner.



“His wife and daughter made us feel like family.”

## AÑASCO

For the team that remained at the host site, the work would be diverse. Job one was the sealing of a new ceiling on the veranda which would provide a cool spot for evening rest for future volunteers. Job two was landscaping to prep gardens for new plantings and job three was scraping the sanctuary of the church to prep the concrete for repair. But, perhaps the largest job was that undertaken by the ‘Destroyers’, aka the demolition team, charged with removing the roof and all non-concrete walls of a badly damaged home that could not be rebuilt. It was a painstaking job that required much more than a sledgehammer, but instead careful planning and coordination to take it down safely.

Demo team leader Mark Vance reflects, “We did difficult work in a moderately risky environment, but it was invigorating! Doing good work alongside strangers is life changing.



You will never be the same and you will make friends for life.”

## ONGOING STRUGGLES

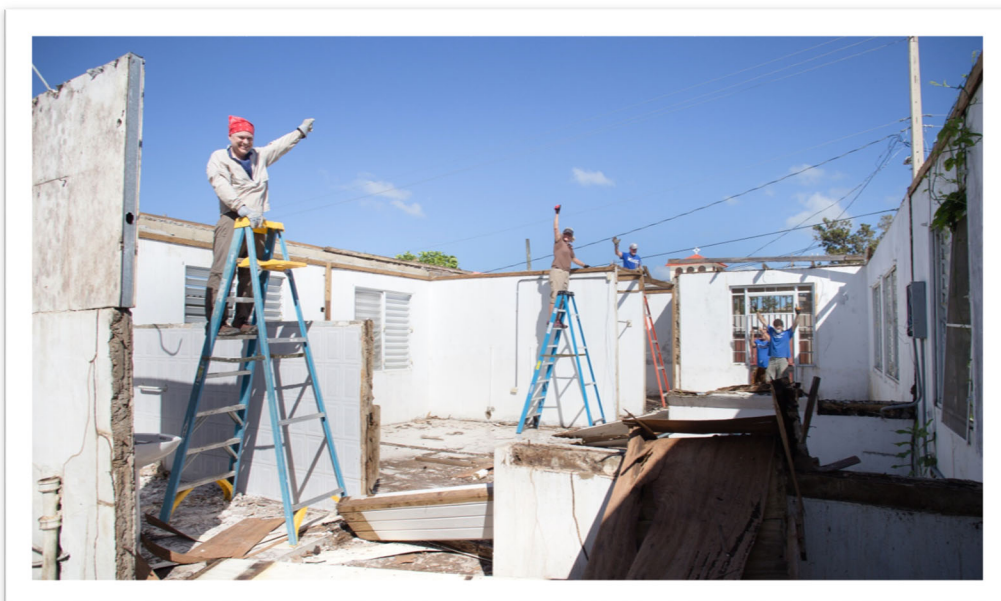
By day three, the teams had found their rhythm and were progressing well. Then, they got a strong dose of reality. Host Ada Lis burst through the door mid-day and informed everyone that the city was shutting off power in minutes for TWO DAYS to make system repairs. No warning, no temporary solutions, simply off. Everyone scurried to shower and stockpile as much water as possible. It was a

reality check as to how fragile the infrastructure remains. “The devastation that occurred is still affecting the quality of life of people simply trying to cope and rebuild.” remarks Todd Mikish. Fortunately for the mission team, the water was back to full volume by morning.

## BEAUTY EVEN IN HARD TIMES

When time allowed, the mission team explored the island to better observe the beauty of this remarkable place. Be it an evening at the ballpark, an afternoon at the beach, worship on Sunday morning, or simply a walk to the town square for ice cream, what was most remarkable is the people's resiliency. “These people love to laugh, love to smile, love to sing, and love to celebrate life's accomplishments” remarked Sharon Knowlton. “Everyone is so positive even though they are surrounded by destruction and loss.”

Deanne Pratt reflects how volunteers were impacted by this. “It's a wonderful opportunity to put all of your own concerns aside and focus on the needs of others. It's a life expanding experience to contribute to others in a way they need or desire.”



### WHAT'S NEXT!

It is the team's hope to have the host coordinator Ada Lis Luciano come to Minnesota this summer to share the work of La Posada de Angeles and the rebuilding efforts with Central in worship. In addition, there will be continued discussion about another mission trip through Central, be it a return to Puerto Rico or another area in need of assistance.

On Sunday, January 13, the mission trip team will be having an open discussion after worship in the Friendship Room about the work, experience and insight from Puerto Rico. We invite you to come and see photos from the trip, hear stories and ask questions.





## VOCALPOINT FOCUSES ON MENTAL HEALTH

A WORD OF INSIGHT FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JENNIFER ANDERSON

One of the things that I value most about VocalPoint — as an organization and as individuals who participate—is that we don't shy away from topics that might seem daunting or challenging. We also know that our "topics" are actually "people" — that our singing is not done in a vacuum, but instead gives voice to real people and real situations. And in giving that voice, we have an incredible responsibility to be thoughtful and careful, and in fact, to really spend most of the time LISTENING before we do any singing at all.

That is the work that we do for so much of the year — as VocalPoint's Artistic Director, most of the months I listen: to non-profits as they tell us their stories; to music as it sings off

the page; to composers as they share what is most compelling to them in this time; and to you - our supporters and friends - as you tell me why this concert season means so much to you.

This year is special - VocalPoint is singing about Mental Health - and I've already heard from many of the singers and audience members some powerful stories of how mental illness has affected your families; how you plan to dedicate these concerts to a dear friend; how you look forward to listening to such a tender topic.



Our guest artist this year is Sara Thomsen, who writes music that allows us to "hold space" for each other - to give each other permission to grieve, or hurt, or heal. When we hold space for each other, we let ourselves simply BE, without judgement or without trying to fix it or without changing the subject. Holding space is a difficult act - but as I mentioned above, I'm grateful

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**February 9 & 10 at 4:00 p.m.**

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for VocalPoint's willingness to do difficult things well.

We can, of course, also hold space for joyous things (we can, and we should!) And we have many joyful things to share this year as well! We are working with three amazing composers, and we will be premiering their pieces during the February concerts:



**TIM TAKACH**

We are singing a new setting of *Mantra* by Tim. I first heard this piece at Source Song Festival this summer, when Clara Osowski sang it (as a solo). The text is fantastic - it speaks about how we can care for ourselves when we are in a dark place - but it offers a warning about thinking there is a "to do list" for fixing brokenness. Instead, we may just need to remember that we aren't in need of fixing at all.

Tim has written the setting for SATB chorus that we will be premiering.



**LINDA KACHELMEIER**

Last year, Linda was involved with Voices of Hope - a choir based in the Women's Correctional Facility in Shakopee - as a guest composer. She worked with the women (80% of whom have a mental illness) using their words, to write a 4-movement piece that gave voice to their hopes and fears about being an incarcerated person. Linda is re-arranging one of the movements (called *Lift Me Up*) for SATB choir. I'm so honored that we will be premiering that version in February. I'm also so thrilled that Linda will be singing with VocalPoint this season (of course you know Linda's voice as the Artistic Director of Lumina, and as one of the founding members of The Rose Ensemble.)



**ABBIE BETINIS**

We are so incredibly fortunate to have Abbie on our team not only at Central, but in VocalPoint as well - her generous and joyful spirit is always up to whatever new adventures we might embark on, and this year is no exception. Abbie was already a fan of Sara Thomsen's music, so she didn't need any convincing to arrange several of Sara's solo pieces for SATB choir. (And we're reprising one of our favorite original compositions of Abbie's as well).

I look forward to seeing you all at our concerts next month on February 9 and 10, both at 4 p.m. Thank you for your ongoing and important support!

— Jennifer Anderson

## DID YOU KNOW?

### VOCALPOINT GIVES 100% OF PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN DONATIONS TO ITS BENEFICIARIES.

In seven seasons, VocalPoint has raised nearly \$200,000 to support the work of Open Arms of Minnesota, Avenues for Homeless Youth, Neighborhood House, The Advocates for Human Rights, Upstream Arts, One Heartland, and Twin Cities RISE. Learn more about this year's beneficiary on their website at [www.vocalpointchorus.org](http://www.vocalpointchorus.org).

### WE NEED A GREAT TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS FROM CENTRAL TO HELP WITH THE CONCERTS.

Please consider lending a hand if you are able. Sign-up online at [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



**LINDA BERGLUND**



**JAMES & LESLIE BERGMAN**



**TODD MIKISH**



**VINAI VINLANDER**



**MADHU KANNAPIRAN**



**CHRISTIE RACHELLE**

On December 9, Central welcomed several new members to the congregation through profession of faith and baptism, transfer and re-affirmation of faith. As they continue to make their home here, we invite you to learn more about them on the following page and engage them in the life, people and culture of Central when you see them.

The New Members & Volunteers Committee will be announcing the next new members class for those interested in becoming members in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about Central, the process of becoming a member or getting more involved as a volunteer or connected as a visitor, please contact New

Members & Volunteer Committee Chair Alex Bollman at [alexmbollman@msn.com](mailto:alexmbollman@msn.com) at anytime.

We also invite you to visit our website at [www.centralforgood.org](http://www.centralforgood.org) to stay abreast of upcoming events and opportunities to connect as a volunteer.



**LINDA BERGLUND**

I am from a small town in Wisconsin, the youngest of 7. I am a quiet person, filled with passion and a love of creating in various art forms and in gathering knowledge and new information. I am new to the church community and am excited to have found a place that I feel at home in.

**JAMES & LESLIE BERGMAN**

James and Leslie moved to St. Paul from Kansas City last year. James is a polymer scientist at 3M, and Leslie works from home as a graphic designer. They have two sweet kids, Walker (2 1/2) and Waverly (1). They love spending time outside (most of the year) and have enjoyed exploring their neighborhood in Como Park.

**MADHU KANNAPIRAN**

Bio coming soon.

**TODD MIKISH**

I grew up in the north suburbs (Blaine, MN) and went to Blaine Sr. High and was heavily involved in sports and the community. I went to

St. Cloud University to study Law enforcement and spent several years with Elk River/Blaine police departments. I currently work as an electrical technician for EMSCO in Fridley. I love my work and enjoy the outdoors. I've moved to the southern suburbs (Burnsville) and have lived here for 2 years. I love spending time with my family and son Michael (17). I found Central Presbyterian Church through my significant-other, Christie Rachele. We are both excited to start exploring our faith horizons with Central.

**CHRISTIE RACHELLE**

I found Central after being hired as the Director of Communications & Publications in 2018. After seeing the emphasis of putting one's faith in action at Central, I realized it was time to make a change in my spiritual life and make Central my church home. After participating in the recent mission trip to Puerto Rico, I know it was the right choice! I have four children - sons Sean (28) and John (24), daughters Ariadne (24) and Caroline (22). Later this month, I will be

welcoming my first grandchild! I have been a professional photographer and marketing designer for 25 years, and spend a lot of time doing volunteer work for organizations serving military, law enforcement, children, arts and adoption.

**VINAI VINLANDER**

I recently relocated from Jackson, Mississippi to the Twin Cities for work. While I consider Yonkers, New York my hometown, I have also lived in Madison (a proud University of Wisconsin alum) and Portland, Oregon. I also spent part of my early childhood in northern Thailand and attended an elementary school affiliated with a Presbyterian mission. Currently, I am an attorney-advisor for a federal agency in downtown Saint Paul. In my free time, I enjoy running, playing soccer (when I have the opportunity), and reading non-fiction. So if you are a runner, like soccer, or just have a book recommendation, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am truly grateful to have found Central and look forward to meeting everyone.

**ALL ARE INVITED TO OPEN CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Wondering what it's like to sing in the Central Choir? Love to sing but haven't yet committed to joining?

We are holding an "Open Choir Rehearsal" January 9 at 7:15 up in the Sanctuary.

You are invited to join us for that evening – we'll provide everything you need and there will be no arm-twisting to join. You can plan to simply join us for that one rehearsal (and sing on Sunday), or it's a great opportunity to see if this is an area of ministry that you might want to

participate in on a regular basis. The Central Choir is a friendly, joyful group of people who welcomes newcomers easily. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Anderson, the Director of Music Ministry at [jennifera@cpcstpaul.org](mailto:jennifera@cpcstpaul.org).

# FOOD DELIVERIES BEGIN AT CENTRAL TOWERS

Research performed on our behalf in 2018 provided two epiphanies. The first was to learn that many residents at Central Towers lack food security, and second, that mobile food shelves are playing a growing role in helping to respond to hunger in downtown areas.

Last Fall, Central's Session approved a recommendation from the Coordinated Mission Committee to use funds to enable iHelp purchase a used van that would allow them to expand their deliveries to include Central Towers. As a result, weekly deliveries began at Central Towers in November. The program quickly proved popular with residents, enabling more than seventy-five residents to receive groceries. We are monitoring the program with the

desire of keeping it efficient and sustainable for the Central Towers staff.

We are also continuing with two efforts based within the church. We have a supply of Matter Boxes that can be given to people in need of healthy, shelf-stable food. We also continue to make clear that people who are hungry are always welcome for Wednesday and Third Sunday lunches.

With the new Designated Associate Pastor focusing on expanding our mission and outreach to downtown and Lowertown, we expect a piece of their ministry will involve making recommendations about third phases of hunger programs we may launch in 2019.



## BE A VOLUNTEER!

Central currently has open calls for volunteers in several areas. To sign up for the following requests, go to [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer).

- **Un-Decorating the Holidays** - Saturday, January 5 from 10:00 a.m. - noon. Help us take down Christmas decorations.
- **Sanctuary Organizers** - Help us restock and organize the pew cards and racks. Flexible schedule for individual, pair or team volunteers.
- **VocalPoint Concert** - See page 7 for details.

- **Sunday Coffee Servers** - Prepare and serve refreshments before and after Sunday worship services.
- **Sunday Worship Usher** - Be a patron of hospitality, helping to ensure members and visitors have a positive worship experience.

If you have questions about volunteer opportunities or getting involved in other areas, speak with Anna Sanchez at (651) 224-4728 or email her at [office@cpcstpaul.org](mailto:office@cpcstpaul.org). There are many ways to get involved and be a part of the Central community for members and visitors!

## ARTIST RECEPTION

Join us after worship on Sunday, January 6 at 11:30 a.m. for an artist reception for JoAnne Wahlstrom, whose work is currently on display in the Friendship Room.

JoAnne Wahlstrom is a nature and architectural photographer whose work has been showcased at US Bank, Landmark Center, The Garden Club of America, and the Minnesota State Fair, earning best-in-class and

best-in-show accolades. Her singular ability to see a work of art through the lens of a camera has evolved from her multi-layered success in the graphic, textile, and fine arts fields. Believing "we take the photo, so the photo takes us", JoAnne evokes vision, feeling, and soundscapes in her photographs, thus bringing clarity, knowledge, and intimacy to her remarkable work.



## WELCOME THE OK FACTOR

The OK Factor joins worship in January 27 as the guest musician. Playful and unexpected, The OK Factor writes and performs folk-inspired music influenced by Americana and Irish fiddle styles, with an artistry that reveals their classical training. Cellist Olivia Diercks and violinist Karla Colahan find great joy in defying expectations

and delivering an experience outside of what audiences anticipate from a cello and violin combo. Their passion for performing and educational outreach has continued to bring them success in communities across the Midwest, inviting audiences to explore music and cultivate a curiosity about its role in their lives.



## STAFF UPDATE

Erik Juvonen has resigned as the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

# GET CONNECTED AT CENTRAL!

## READER TEAM

Volunteers are leading the Call to Worship, Call to Confession, and Assurance of Pardon, as well as occasional scripture readings. Are you interested in participating in this way? Then please speak with Rev. Colby to be a part of this small group.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets weekly on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. You don't need to bring anything or be an expert on any part of the Bible. Newcomers and questions are always welcome.

## THE MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

Meets at Denny's in Maplwood at noon on the second Tuesday of every month and always welcomes new members. This is a great chance to enjoy good conversation and build friendships over lunch. Talk to Rick Barker or Denny Reimer if you are interested.

## PEACEFUL PRESENCE

A group which gathers for prayer and quiet contemplation on the first Wednesday of the month from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Lounge.

## CENTRAL CHOIR

This musical small group meets September through May on

Wednesday evenings from 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. for rehearsal and sings in worship on Sunday mornings. Musical folks are always welcome. If you would like to join, speak with Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music.

## BOOK GROUP

Small group that meets at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month to read and discuss novels and best sellers. If you love to read, this is for you!

## DORCAS CIRCLE

A small Bible study group for women that meets monthly. The next meeting is Thursday, February 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Coffee is provided, bring your own lunch.

*just be yourself.*

LET PEOPLE SEE  
THE REAL, IMPERFECT,  
FLAWED, QUIRKY, WEIRD,  
BEAUTIFUL, AWESOME  
PERSON THAT YOU ARE.



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[office@cpcstpaul.org](mailto:office@cpcstpaul.org)

# PROGRESS IN THE SEARCH FOR A DESIGNATED ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Recent newsletters have provided updates on one of the exciting developments happening at Central. We are expanding our capacity and our staff! The Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (DAPNC) worked diligently throughout December, holding video conference interviews with applicants, going through a careful discernment process, and then scheduling onsite interviews.

A recent newsletter featured the Central members serving on the DAPNC. In this newsletter, we want to highlight some of the preliminary work done by the presbytery and express our gratitude. One of the reasons the Session chose to move forward with the somewhat unusual "designated" process was the

potential for a much quicker search process than a more traditional search. In order for the search to proceed quickly, a lot of early legwork was done by a task force of the presbytery.

The presbytery's task force spent time learning about Central and our needs and hopes for this position. They then screened applications, looking for people with the right set of skills and traits, backgrounds and experience. Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins, a retired chaplain and former Moderator of the Presbytery, chaired the task force. Denise was tireless in communicating with every single applicant and with the task force members and with Central leadership. The Rev. Jeff Japinga, the Presbytery Executive, served on

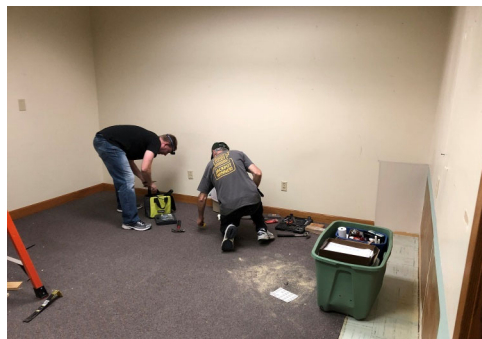
the Task Force, and conducted an initial round of reference calls. The other two members of the task force were Kenneth Huskins, who had served on and even chaired previous Associate Pastor nominating committees for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and the Rev. Paul Moore, pastor for the Chain of Lakes church in Blaine. This task force read numerous applications, ranking candidates and meeting to discuss applicants before providing Central's DAPNC with a list of eight candidates deemed likely fits for our position. We are so grateful to Denise, Ken, Paul and Jeff for sharing their time, concern and wisdom!

The next step for Central? Interviews with the selected candidates. Stay tuned!

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*Thank you to our demo crew (Craig Foss, Todd Mikish, Jim O'Neill, Jeremy Berg, Carl Willis, and Pat Cook, under the supervision of Bill Zopfi) who dismantled our old copy room this past month in preparation for construction of a new office for the incoming Associate Pastor.*

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## WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP

The busy holiday season is done, so take some time for yourself! Join us for our next Women's networking outing on Thursday, January 10 when we will be dining at:



**Holman's Table**  
Holman's Field  
STP Airport  
644 Bayfield Street  
St. Paul, MN

As always, we will meet at church at 5:15 p.m. or you can meet us at the restaurant at 5:30 p.m. We will plan to drive to Holman's Table, as it is too far to walk from church. Free parking is available in front of the building.

## DECK THE HALLS

Thank you to all who made the Deck The Halls event a great success. We accomplished a lot - pageant rehearsal, brunch, concert, and decorating!

A special thank you to the kitchen crew, set up and clean-up crews for their hard work for the brunch. Thank you to all who attended and to those who donated to the Mitten Tree. We collected 101 items (mittens, hats, ear bands, gloves and scarves) for donation to The Family Place. Thank you to Kelly Ishizuka, Madhu Kannapiran, and their daughters Sophie and Addison for delivering all of the items to The Family Place.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## KNITTING GROUP

The Women of Central's Knitting Group will resume on Sunday, January 27 after worship and meet in the Friendship Room. We are currently seeking a lead for this informal group. If you can help, please contact Sue Hoffman at syhoffman123@comcast.net.

## BOOK GROUP

Book group will meet Tuesday, January 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room.

## DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, January 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. We will be looking at Lesson 5. Bring your own lunch, coffee will be provided.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Susan Seymour..... 1/1  
 Robbie Lee ..... 1/1  
 Lincoln Lee..... 1/1  
 Linda Berglund ..... 1/4  
 John Lee ..... 1/4  
 Darlene Larson..... 1/6  
 Eliana Klæhn..... 1/7  
 Florence Zopfi ..... 1/8  
 Sally Siebell..... 1/12  
 Ane Sofi Varanasi ..... 1/14  
 Peter Varanasi ..... 1/15  
 Eric Severson..... 1/16  
 Stewart Siebell ..... 1/19  
 Richard Peterson..... 1/21  
 Bonnie Zopfi ..... 1/22  
 Wendy Peterson..... 1/23  
 William French ..... 1/23

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Jessica Jones, Kerry Bollman, Jeff Jones, and all the parent volunteers who gave of their time and energy to help our children put on the fantastic Christmas Pageant.

A big thank you to everyone who helped decorate our church for Christmas—at least 32 people! Special thanks to Charrie Willis for organizing, and to Pat Cook for the extra hours spent keeping our building in tip-top shape during the very busy month of December.

## RECOGNITION

Thank you to Laura Nichols-Endres, for her 5 years of leadership navigating Central's financial journey as Chair of the Finance & Stewardship Committee.

Gabriel Lawson ..... 1/23  
 Melinda Kovach ..... 1/24  
 Wendy Flinner ..... 1/25  
 Andrew Hisey ..... 1/26  
 Amanda Amarteifio ..... 1/29  
 Pat Kivela ..... 1/30  
 Jim Kovach ..... 1/30  
 Annalee Wolf ..... 1/30  
 Robert Singh ..... 1/30

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

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# 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  
 Music Staff: Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis, Adam Van der Sluis, Steve Swanson, David Winkworth

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

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St. Paul, MN 55101

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CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*



*Read inside about Central's mission trip team who spent a week in Puerto Rico helping with Hurricane Maria recovery. Thanks to Art Anderson, Adam Van der Sluis, Casey Wells, Christie Rachelle, Deanne Pratt, David Colby, Dwight Colby, Eric Bartlett, Jess Garner, Josh Voelker, Kiera Fay, Mark Vance, Mary Miller, Sharon Knowlton, and Todd Mikish for representing Central in this effort.*