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THE BEAUTY OF GIVING JOY OFFERING TO KICK OFF IN JULY

[BY ELDER DR. ERNEST LLOYD]

This month, Central will be launching our annual Joy Offering campaign with a Minute for Mission speech by Elder Dr. Ernest Lloyd during Sunday’s worship service on July 18, 2021.

In Acts of the Apostles 20:35, Paul reminded the Ephesian Elders the concept of giving to support the weak, remembering the words of Lord Jesus, for he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Thus, the Joy Offering has been a stable and consistent campaign in the Presbyterian Church for over 90 years.

Joy Beneficiary

The Joy offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Again, the desire to give to the Joy Offering supports past, present, and future leaders.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

UPCOMING WORSHIP

WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

Maureen Smith will be preaching on how the ideals of our country line up with our Christian values, how we as a country fall short of our ideals, and what is and isn't patriotism. We will celebrate communion with Rev. John Severson. Music will include Steve Swanson, piano; Abbie Betinis and Eric Bartlett, vocalists.

Sunday, July 11

Katie Morris will preach. As we continue to consider God in creation, how do we share God's love and welcome with all of creation? We will look at what Jesus tells his disciples as he sends them out in Mark 6. Music will include Steve Swanson, piano; David Winkworth, soloist; and our Handbell Ensemble.

Sunday, July 18

Rev. Carol Reed will preach from Psalm 23 and Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 on caring for God's creation and ourselves. Music will include Steve Swanson, piano; David Winkworth, soloist.

Sunday, July 25

Inspired by water and God's care for all, Rev. Carol Reed will preach from Psalm 42:1-5, Amos 5:24 and John 6:1-21. Music will include Abbie Betinis, soloist; Summer Singers; Jennifer Anderson, organ; and a video from the Central Choir taken on our church steps.

This month we will be collecting a special offering.

See page 4 to learn about the Joy Offering!

Not able to join us yet in person? Share in live-stream video worship online.

www.centralforgood.org/stream

New to Central? Drop us an email and say hello. We'd love to connect with you!

office@centralforgood.org

CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed,
Transitional Pastor
carolr@centralforgood.org, ext. 102
Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

ADMINISTRATION

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Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
Lavar Jones, Sexton

MUSIC

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

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Katie Morris, Children & Youth
Ministry Coordinator
katiem@centralforgood.org, ext. 109
Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider
Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

FOOD INITIATIVE

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager
Barb.westman@gmail.com
Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef
Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

MARTHA'S CLOSET



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

[BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE]

June came in bright and brought with it the return of in-person worship at Central with beautiful live music, reflective worship, thoughtful prayers, and gathering connections in a sacred space. Yet, as we celebrate this time that we waited so long for, we must also remain mindful of the many helping hands that are needed to carve out the experiences and programs that we hold so closely to our hearts.

And so, we turn to you and ask, can you help us in one of the following key areas?

Coffee Preparation & Serving

These hospitality volunteers help create a fellowship experience for Sunday worship members and guests. Coffee makers help prepare and serve refreshments before worship services while coffee servers serve coffee and cookies after

worship during the fellowship hour. While we are not yet able to meet in the Friendship Room, in July we will explore holding coffee hour outside. To sign up, visit our website at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

A Welcoming Usher

Ushers are the patrons of hospitality, a welcoming face helping to ensure members and visitors have all that they need to enjoy a positive worship experience. Ushering in this time requires a bit of adaptation from previous models as well as new training to address the changes to in-person worship.

If you are able to help, sign up at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. Contact Anna in the office if you have any questions.

Worship Leaders

We have seen many faces leading worship this past year through our video streams. But, now, we have

the opportunity to witness members at our pulpit as liturgists, leading prayers, reading scripture passages, and speaking on church announcements and missions.

If you have an interest in supporting Rev. Carol Reed and our program staff in worship services, volunteer to serve as a worship leader by contacting Rev. Reed directly at (651) 224-4728 ext. 102 or emailing her at carolr@centralforgood.org. Training and materials will be provided.

Caring for Children

We are looking for folks to serve in the nurse's office with our youngest community members. Working alongside paid staff, nursery care is offered Sunday mornings during worship and involves caring for and engaging with our little ones as well as helping them to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines.

THE BEAUTY OF GIVING [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

The Joy Offering supports Presbyterian - related schools and colleges equipping communities of color like Stillman College - a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and to provide life-changing experiences for graduates in an ever changing world. Half of the offering supports the schools, and the other half provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Honoring God’s Gift

By giving to the Joy Offering, you honor God’s gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to Presbyterian related endeavors. There are numerous examples depicting just how important our “Joy Offerings” help God’s children. One such example of the beauty of giving to this campaign is seen through the eyes of Rose Bryant who took a leap of faith that led to divine intervention for her.

Personally, I can relate to the struggles Rose encountered as I too attended a HBCU. Instead of receiving a grant via Joy Offering as Rose did, I received a personal grant from an already struggling family member to attend a HBCU in NC. She wanted me to succeed as did one of Rose’s professors at Stillman College in Alabama. Instead of facing the struggles of working and taking care of a child with a dream of completing her degree in education, I received my degree in History and Government with a minor in Education. We both became certified teachers.



Engaging and promoting this Joy Offering brings us closer together as members and allows us to connect more deeply with those in need of assistance, like Rose Bryant.

Giving at Work

Rose was a single parent raising a young son.

She was expecting that a new work opportunity was supposed to open up so many doors for her. Rose worked for AT&T and was in a manager training program and expected to open her own store one day. When her boss noticed that she didn’t have a bachelor’s degree, she could no longer stay in the program or run a store. Rose realized not finishing school was impacting her growth.

Knowing she had to take a leap of faith, Rose resigned from her job. She needed money but, after years in retail, wanted something that would allow her to spend more time with her son. She decided to be a substitute teacher, which meant getting her transcript from Stillman College.

Bryant had attended the school in 2003 but wasn’t really sure what she wanted to do, so she left. A few years later, she found out she was pregnant and had to keep working to support her son - setting aside her dream of finishing college. That all changed in 2015.

Rose grew up in Tuscaloosa and finally, in 2019 she graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in education. She did so well that she landed a job

three months before finishing school. She now works as a seventh-grade English and language arts teacher for the Dallas Independent School District in Dallas.

Bryant credits that, in part, to the financial aid received through programs like the Joy Offering.

“That support not only kept me in school, but it allowed me to take part in programs during the summers,” Bryant explained. “I went to cities like Boston and Washington, D.C., and learned from people at places like John Hopkins University. It helped create a special education curriculum at an Indiana public school district and took part in teacher development programs in Minnesota. I was exposed to new ideas that made me not only more marketable, but more well-rounded.”

Bryant doesn't want people to overlook the importance of schools like Stillman College to those who attend classes.

“Give as much as you can because it always helps,” she said. “Stillman is a place where those who live way out in what we call the Black Belt of Alabama can experience new things and grow in a way that's not overwhelming. But sometimes you don't know what you don't know until you have the opportunity to learn.”

2020 is already a big year for Bryant. She's not only doing what she loves, but she's engaged and her son Aaron - who is now 13, helped with the proposal - and she just bought her first house.

Rose doesn't think she would be here without the support of Stillman. She stated that the amazing thing is that all of this has a ripple effect. She was able to finish my goal because of the support she received.

How to Contribute

Please give as much as you can because “a mind is a terrible thing

to waste.” When we all do a little, it adds up a lot. Thus, making a fundamental difference in their lives through the beauty of giving.

You can give in several ways.

- In-Person - Simply note ‘Joy Offering’ with your donation to the offering basket in worship.
- Online - Visit our website at www.centralforgood.org/give. When donating, choose ‘Special Offering’ from the drop down list.
- Via Text - Pick up your phone and text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate direct to Presbyterian Church USA.
- Mail - Drop a check in the mail, payable to Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101 and note ‘Joy Offering’ in the memo field.

If you have any questions about the offering, contact Anna at (651) 224-4728, ext. 100.

MANY HANDS [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3]

If you want to help as a nursery care provider, contact Katie Morris, Central's Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator, at katiem@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext.109 for details and to set up your orientation and necessary background check.

Church Keepers

Are you handy around the house, and like to do fix-it projects? Do you

enjoy spending time with other handy people? Central is looking for people to join the *Church Keepers* group. From helping with the front yard landscaping maintenance, to basic repairs, to stocking the pew cards and straightening the pews, to other seasonal facility work, the office maintains a list of light-duty tasks ready for whoever is willing.

Simply send an email Anna Sanchez to office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.

If these do not quite fit your interest or availability, check out our volunteer page for other ways in which you can serve our community: www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

GOD'S CARING FOR ALL CREATIONS

[BY REV. CAROL REED]

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; the world, and those who live in it...

[PSALM 24:1]

One Saturday afternoon in June, I was out on my little patio when I heard a pair of cardinals making a great deal of noise. I had been watching this pair for several weeks. The female cardinal had been hard at work building a nest in my rose trellis, adding in impossibly long pieces of twigs and straw, somehow flying in and out of the tangled collection of branches in the climbing rose. As a friend commented to me, it was amazing to see how birds with a beak and two feet can make such perfect nests for their families to be born and raised in.

Cardinals lay one egg a day and the female will sit on the eggs only after all the eggs are laid. When I observed the female sitting on the nest, I knew her brood was on its way. Eventually she seemed to become accustomed to my presence out in the garden. One day I heard quiet chirping coming from the roses and knew at least one baby bird had hatched.

That Saturday afternoon as I watched the male and female cardinal hopping around excitedly in the adjoining tree, I also noticed movement in the rose. I sat very still watching, and after a time noticed a flutter. The parents were apparently encouraging the baby bird to leave the nest, to try out its wings. Eventually a young bird fledged and



flew awkwardly to a nearby shrub. The rest of the afternoon and into the evening every time I went out onto the patio, I saw the male and female cardinal hovering around the fledgling, bringing it food as it floundered in the shrub, then in the ground cover, not quite strong enough to fly away.

I have had many birds nest in my yard over the years, but I have never seen the exact moment the baby leaves the nest. As I watched the moment happening in front of me, I thought of how the Bible talks about God's care for the birds and for all of creation, the descriptions of God caring for us as a mother bird cares for her young, protecting and caring and gently nudging us to grow.

This summer we have a theme in worship of God's beautiful creation. We are looking for you to submit objects or images of how you are experiencing God out in creation. Bring an interesting rock you find, a small bottle of water from your favorite lake or river, take a photo of something that captures your attention, whatever speaks to you

about God's presence. Then watch as the "tree" – the art installation – begins to grow in the sanctuary.

Blessings to you as you enjoy this summer and the beautiful creation God has given us.

A PRAYER BY PAT MILLIKEN from *Worship for All Seasons*

God of creation, giver of joy, on the Sabbath you sat down to rest.

Around you was all creation:

stars danced across the heavens,
the wind wove melodies
through the trees,

men and women walked
together and knew joy.

You looked and saw
that it was good.

Be with us in this summer season;
may we simply sit and rest.

May we sense your creation all
around us, and see that it is good.

Show us how to walk softly on the
earth, and together in love. Amen.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS ON A COMMITTEE!

If you are looking for a new way to get involved at church, the committees of Central are looking for YOU!

Many of our committees from year to year are welcoming new members to help them serve their mission. Most meet once each month for about an hour, either on Zoom or a hybrid of Zoom and in-person meetings. All offer a way to meet and connect with others in unique ways, while serving our community.

If you are interested in joining one of the following committees, please call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100 or email Anna at office@centralforgood.org to get connected.

Worship, Music & Arts

CHAIR: DENNY REIMER

This committee oversees the big-picture of all worship planning, including monthly coordination of communion preparation. They also drive our artist collaborations and feature exhibitions.

Children & Youth

CHAIR: PHYLLIS BRASHLER

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

Finance & Stewardship

CHAIR: CHRIS SMITH

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. This committee will create and implement a stewardship campaign in the fall to increase participation in the life of the church.

Welcome & Fellowship

CHAIR: KIERA FAYE

Formerly known as the New Members & Volunteers committee, this group will engage visitors, host classes for new members, and help new members assimilate. In addition, this committee is charged with recruiting and training volunteers for ongoing hospitality tasks in the church (such as ushers and coffee servers).

Personnel

CHAIR: MEL LEACH

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 confidential.

Coordinated Mission

CHAIR: SHARON ZOPFI-JORDAN

Central is very active in mission and 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

and community serving efforts, so that we can be most effective.

Facilities Management & Risk Assessment

CHAIR: CARL WILLIS

This committee addresses building and safety issues. Thanks to a recent grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, this committee has been helping to coordinate the assessment and renovation work to the our building exterior and other necessary projects.

Nominating Committee

CHAIR: MEL LEACH

This is a committee, not of the Session, but of the entire congregation. Usually meeting in the fall, it is charged with discerning whom God is preparing to serve as elders and deacons.

Presbytery Commissioners

Central is eligible to send two voting commissioners to presbytery meetings. Some churches elect commissioners (and alternates) to serve for a year; others select commissioners on a rotating basis. Presbytery meetings are held on Tuesdays or Saturdays five times each year in churches from across the presbytery (which stretches from Rochester to Hudson, WI). This can provide greater awareness about the work of the church beyond Central.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

[REV. KATIE MORRIS]

Childcare & In-Person Worship

We are so glad that Central has been able to return to in-person worship in the last few weeks! AND we know that families are at all different comfort levels with in-person activities. Know that you and your family are welcome in whatever way you decide to join us for worship!

At the church, we'll have childcare available during the worship hour for infant-kindergarten and individual worship materials and activities in the sanctuary. We'll continue to livestream worship, and include materials, books suggestions, and other resources in our weekly Children and Youth Ministry email.

If you have questions, concerns, or

ideas, please feel free to reach out to Katie at (651) 224-4728 ext. 109 or katiem@centralforgood.org.

Picnics in the Park

Join us for picnics in the park this summer throughout the Twin Cities! Bring a mask, your favorite lawn games, a hammock, some snacks, and spend time in fellowship outside. Let us know if you'd like to add more dates throughout the summer and we certainly can!

- Sunday afternoon, July 18: Fellowship for All Ages
- Saturday morning, August 21: Fellowship for all ages

RSVP for the above events to Katie Morris for details on time and location at katiem@centralforgood.org.

Congrats to Our Grads

We're so excited to celebrate all of the graduates in our Central community, especially with the year of school that no one expected. Congrats to you all, and blessings to you as you go on to your next adventure!

- **Megan Beese** graduated from Metropolitan State University with a bachelors of science in marketing, and she is looking forward to post grad life.
- **Andrew Pearson** was home schooled and is headed to the University of Minnesota to the college of science and engineering.
- **Avniel Green**, Lillian Sanders' grandson, graduated from Open World Learning in West St. Paul.



The Lake

[BY HILARY ALLEN]

The lake was still, tranquil in the morning light.

I, too, was still, watching and listening.

What would God say to me today?

A dragonfly danced and darted,

then rested beside me,

amber-iridescent in the sun.

Being not doing.

God said I could be like that,

being not doing,

receiving love.

[FROM BARE FEET AND BUTTERCUPS,
WILD GOOSE PUBLICATIONS, IONA]



For a New Beginning

[FROM JOHN O'DONOHUE'S *TO BLESS THE SPACE BETWEEN US*]

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plentitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul sense the world that awaits you.



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VOLUNTEER TO HELP
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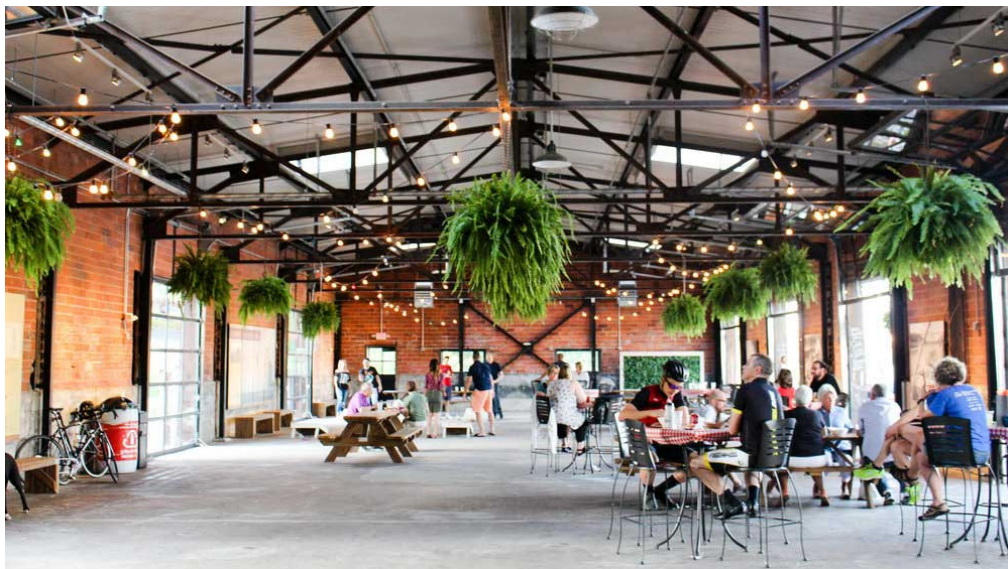


WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP

[BY SUE HOFFMAN]

We had a great time at Kellogg Square! It was so good to see people and share conversation in this lovely space. Thank you to Sally Mortenson and Casey Wells for hosting us. And, thank you to our photographer – Carol Reed for capturing the group in a photo!

Our next gathering will be Monday, July 19th at Red River Kitchen at City House. This spot has great food and drink options and ample seating at tables inside the City House. It's a perfect *inside* spot outdoors, as you can see below.



SAVE THE DATE!

When: Monday, July 19
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Where: Red River Kitchen
at City House
258 Mill Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

Please help us with a head count and RSVP if you plan to attend at women@centralforgood.org. We look forward to seeing you!

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for future event announcements, drop an email to women@centralforgood.org.

4 WAYS TO GIVE

While we are unable to pass the collection plate in our online worship, we invite you to give through several other ways.



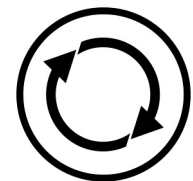
Donate Online

www.centralforgood.org/give



Mail a Check

500 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101



Recurring Transfer

Set up an automatic bank transfer



Deliver In-Person

Contact the office to arrange a day/time for drop off.

QUESTIONS?

Call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Building Restoration Work Continues

Restoration work on the west façade of the building will continue through the summer. The large stained glass window will have the dingy, almost-opaque plastic protective cover removed, to be replaced and then reinstalled with clear, tempered-glass panes so we can again see the vivid colors of the glass. Also, new downspouts and heat-tapes are going up on the roof to protect the roof and building from weather and ice.



Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, July 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is the next volunteer opportunity to serve the lunch meal at the St. Paul Opportunity Center where nutritious meals are offered free to adult men and women in need. The St. Paul Opportunity Center is part of Catholic Charities and is located at 422 Dorothy Day Place St. Paul, MN 55102. The Coordinated Mission Committee is looking for 8-10 volunteers to help with this service. If you are interested in volunteering please sign up at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and wear closed toed footwear.

Can't make this date? Other opportunities this year are September 11th and November 13th. Please contact Central's office at office@centralforgood.org if you have questions.

Connection Circles Continue

The Deacons are continuing their connection circles as an avenue for people to meet and check-in with each other. Offered 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., the following Zoom link is the same for all Connection Circles.

VIA COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229900980>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:

(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 872 2990 0980#

See you in the circle!



Happy Birthday!

Join us in wishing a another joyous *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating birthdays this month.

- Reuben Amarteifio..... 7/4
- Mary Kay Vance..... 7/5
- Jessica Soderbeck 7/6
- Janet Engeswick..... 7/7
- Dennis Rich..... 7/12
- David Zopfi-Jordan 7/12
- Roberta Nelson 7/13
- Megan Jagger 7/14
- Philip Sanders..... 7/14
- Cameron Linner..... 7/16
- Laura Nichols-Endres 7/17
- Ella McCarten 7/18
- John McCarten 7/18
- David Hanscom 7/19
- Alex Bollman 7/20
- Moses Kimani 7/21
- Solomon Fisher 7/22
- James Wheeler 7/22
- Benjamin Beese 7/23
- Keanan Dwyer 7/23
- Gerard Dwyer..... 7/24
- Mawulouwoe Foli..... 7/24
- Bruce Beese 7/28
- Ann Juhnke..... 7/29
- Natalie Kovach 7/30

If we missed you, please send us a note to office@centralforgood.org so that we can correct our records and share birthday wishes with you, too!



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THANK YOU DONORS!

Thank you to everyone at Central who contributed diapers and baby wipes last month to our annual Diaper Drive.

Your gifts were delivered to families in need at Project Home in St. Paul.

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*