



Central Today

June 2018

www.cpcstpaul.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:30 AM

During our Pentecost worship service in late May, it felt like we were at a hinge point. Some things in the church calendar were coming to an end but we were also announcing new beginnings. This newsletter provides more background and puts some flesh on what is happening here at Central. It is an exciting time, and there are lots of ways to get involved in the life of this church that deeply desires to be in the city for good. During my Pentecost sermon of May 20, I said, And yet, still, a Pentecost moment is always possible. For new life to blow in unexpected. For new languages to be heard. For new possibilities to suddenly present themselves.

Today at Central a few things are coming to an end. A year of Sunday School is drawing to a close and we are thanking teachers. A wonderful choir season wrapping up, and we will be thanking them and in particular, thanking one of our section leaders (Bill Haugen) who has provided leadership and enthusiasm and a gentle kindness for four years who will be stepping down. But it is also a moment of new beginnings. An exciting moment. We are on the cusp of new possibilities.

Some days it is clear that this is an old historic church with a long history. When a volunteer offers to vacuum the sanctuary and then cannot find many electrical sockets. Or when you go into the subbasement and see the giant heating ducts that are remnants from when the building was heated with a coal-fired furnace. But today, this Pentecost birthday in my mind feels like Central is turning 10 or 18 or 21. All of a sudden we have new possibilities and new responsibilities and new abilities. And it is so cool to that it is on Pentecost we can announce a few things made possible by a generous gift.

Beginning in June, a worship series that features meals in the Bible. And knowing that worship should always be linked with service, we will begin an intentional effort to explore how we can better serve people who are hungry. And welcome a full-time college intern helping us to explore possibilities and lead field trips to volunteer and learn from other good efforts. Beginning this Fall, we will have a composer-in-residence, our own Abbie Betinis, who will have the chance to and the time to help us create more music together. We will sponsor a mission trip to work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Puerto Rico. And we will be expanding the capability and resources of our staff.

We are at an exciting time. The work of the church is sorely needed in our world, and in this city, and in people's lives. And we will be guided by the Holy Spirit that keeps blowing in when we things things have all been tried before, showing us new possibilities and new ways and blessing new ideas and summoning our best faith.

Happy birthday.
David Colby

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Worship

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

We will kick off our summer worship series featuring stories of meals in the Bible. Fittingly, we will celebrate communion together. Rev. Colby will preach and Ars Nova Brass Quintet is back in 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, JUNE 10

Rev. Colby will engage Bonnie Alton in a conversation that is both theological and practical. Bonnie is the owner of Great Harvest Bread Company on Selby Avenue in Saint Paul. Bonnie uses her whole grain bakery as a vehicle for community building. For nearly 25 years she has provided hospitality and nourishment to her customers, generously supported non-profit organizations and provided first time employment to hundreds of young people in St. Paul.

Sharon Kleckner is our guest organist, and tenor Bill Haugen returns to sing in worship. This will be April Greibrok's final day on staff. We hope you will join us as we thank April for her caring work among us!

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

Steve Swanson, piano and David Winkworth, baritone, sings in worship. Diaper drive concludes.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Sharon Kleckner, organ and David Winkworth, baritone, sings in worship.



Central Creates Partnership with Twin Cities R!SE

One of the great benefits of VocalPoint is for the Central community to learn about great local organizations doing important life-changing work. This past year's beneficiary organization was Twin Cities R!SE. Twin Cities R!SE provides comprehensive employment counseling and personal empowerment through coaching, counseling, skills-development and internships.

So, when Steve Kesner gave notice that he would be ending his time as our Sexton, the Personnel Committee began looking in a number of directions. What began as a brainstormed question (You don't think Twin Cities R!SE might like to work with us on this, do you?) came to fruition remarkably quickly. We met with staff from TC R!SE and learned the details of their internship programs and how they connect to ongoing coaching efforts. So we have begun a program that will connect R!SE participants to our church through our Sexton programs as paid interns.

Central Food Initiative Kicks Off

The initial meeting of the Hunger Initiative Task Force was on May 23. We had an energizing first meeting, and asked a lot of questions and heard a lot of ideas worth exploring.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to volunteer with and learn from other organizations working on food ministries. As Central thinks through ideas on how to build on our strengths and location and do more to offer food for those who are hungry, your ideas are welcome. Call and talk to our Hunger Initiative Coordinator Sarah Hoffman, or send questions and ideas to explore.

We will be offering field trips to volunteer at and learn from other organizations doing important work. Dates and times will be set soon (so watch



**WELCOME,
RICK DAHL!**

Rick has lived in Minnesota his entire life, growing up in the small town of Darwin, and been in the Twin Cities since 2002. He came to TCR with experience as a general laborer doing repairs and maintenance, and as a machine operator, and is now working their 8-week training program alongside a paid internship with us at Central. In his free time, Rick would enjoy doing anything outdoorsy, like fishing and hunting, and he loves our Minnesota winters.

Welcome, Rick, we are happy to have you on staff!

Sunday bulletins and weekly emails and Facebook posts for more details), but we have determined the first two field trip destinations:

- **Gethsemane Lutheran Church** on Colfax Ave. in Minneapolis. Gethsemane does amazing work on a weekly basis receiving food from large grocery stores and distributing it to local residents.
- **Higher Ground Shelter** in downtown St. Paul. Higher Ground (also known as the Dorothy Day Shelter) provides meals daily.

Stay tuned for dates and details!

"For I was hungry, and you offered me food."

Session Decision Making Process

Several months ago the Session announced that the church had received a large gift that totaled \$1.65 million dollars. The gift came without restrictions. In the last few issues of the newsletter, the Session has requested the suggestions of the community as well as asking for your prayers during the time that the Session would discern how best to put this generosity toward faithful efforts.

Beginning at the first Session meeting of 2018 in January, and continuing through May, the Session has been intentional in reflecting on the values that shape Central's community, the goals we have for the next five or so years, and the strategies committees and staff will use to achieve those goals. These conversations paved the way for decision-making about how best to use this gift.

The May newsletter summarized five goals agreed upon by the Session:

1. Grow the number of people involved in the life of this church.
2. Provide more benefits to the community (including through partnerships with other organizations).
3. Maintain the church facility.
4. Expand member participation.
5. Be intentional in our efforts to increase the racial diversity of this congregation.

At the May 15, 2018 meeting, following recommendations from committees and attention to the ideas submitted by the congregation, several decisions were made.

Building our investments to generate ongoing operating income. Our current operating budget relies primarily upon the faithful pledges and gifts by the Central community. In addition, income from our investments is used to supplement contributions to balance the budget. Over the last four years the Session has been intentional and

disciplined in phasing down the use of investment income and principal for this purpose. Setting some money from this gift into our investments will enable an sustainable and ongoing annual draw of \$50,000.

Our building is on the national historic register and requires care and attention. It is an expensive building to maintain, and our status on the historic register requires us to follow specific processes to do upgrades and maintenance. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to engage an historic architect firm to survey the exterior of the building and recommend and prioritize work that is necessary to maintain and improve its appearance and condition. The grant process is normally done in two stages, with an initial grant to make recommendations and an expectation that a second grant would be sought to fund the work to address the recommendations. Applicants for this grant process must be able to demonstrate a financial commitment to doing this work, so the Session set aside money to be ready for this second stage of the grant process.

With the Session's top goal of growing the membership and reach of the congregation, the Personnel Committee has been giving our current staffing model a close look in comparison to other churches in our region. The Session believes that our growth, dynamism of programs and our ability to fulfill our mission is directly tied to the quality and ability of our staff. To ensure that we are well staffed with superior people we must be able to compensate those staff members in a competitive manner that not only stimulates excellent performance but rewards excellent performance. The Session decided to set money apart to support and expand our current staffing model with the expectation that an expanded staff will lead to growth in the church community. In addition, the Session voted to fund a new position, an Associate

Pastor position that will provide numerous and lasting benefits to Central. The decision to fund a new position is an important first step in what will be a multi-step process. More information about this step will be included in the July newsletter.

The Session chose to fund an exciting idea to have a Composer-in-Residence (Abbie Betinis) to work with Central from September 1, 2018 until January 1, 2020. Abbie is particularly eager to write an original hymn based on who we are as a church; create a new table grace, unique to Central; compose a new anthem for the choir; facilitate creative music-making workshops with children; lead an Adult Education forum on the creative process; lead community singing outside of worship; and curate evening remounts of her most popular noontime Schubert Club concerts.

The Session also chose to fund a mission trip to do hurricane relief and recovery work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Puerto Rico. Mission trips can be life-changing experiences for participants and the sponsoring congregation. Participants can connect their faith, learn about themselves and other cultures, develop and deepen friendships and do some good. Mission trips can foster partnerships and increase our awareness and concern. The goal in funding this trip is to make it possible for a diverse group of Central folks to participate, and for scholarships to be available. With funding for this trip now secured, the Coordinated Mission Committee will begin to get the details in place.

Many ideas were formulated by committees and submitted by members of Central. Some of these ideas will come to fruition through the usual work of committees as funded by the operating budget. Other ideas need more time and definition. What is clear is that we are on the cusp of some exciting new beginnings!

About Our Composer-In-Residence, Abbie Betinis

Abbie is one of America's most performed living composers. From Carnegie Hall to Disney Hall, grade school assemblies to wedding ceremonies, state prisons to capital buildings, cathedrals to summer camps, her music is being performed somewhere in the world every day. Abby has created new music for over sixty organizations.

A two-time McKnight Artist Fellow, Abbie has won awards from the American Composers Forum, ASCAP and the Minnesota Music Educators Association. At age 31, she was deemed one of the nation's top *100 Composers Under 40* by National Public Radio and New York's WQXR-FM. On Minnesota Public Radio, her annual premier of a fresh, new Christmas carol has become a beloved holiday tradition. Her early career as a cancer survivor finding her voice is profiled in the Upper Midwest Emmy award-winning documentary "Never Stop Singing".

Abbie has held Composer-in-Residence positions with the Rose Ensemble, New York State School Music Association, the Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists and Schubert Club. She is the Executive Director of Justice Choir and Adjunct Professor of Composition at Concordia University-St. Paul.



Music Director Jennifer Anderson To Take a Sabbatical Leave

Sustaining creative excellence requires intentionality and pacing. We are so grateful for Jennifer's work as our Director of Music Ministry.

Week in and week out Jennifer provides and oversees high-quality music that is spiritually uplifting and connects closely to worship themes and seasons. We believe that a regular schedule of sabbaticals provides the opportunity for Jennifer (and for our pastor as well) to gain perspective, recharge batteries, and lift their thinking above the weekly nature of planning, deadlines, rehearsals and performance.

A NOTE FROM JENNIFER:

Dear Central family:

Thank you for the gift of a 6-week sabbatical. I am truly grateful for this chance to step out of the weekly grind of preparing music for worship. I love what I do, but taking a break is healthy and re-energizing.

Some of you have asked what I plan to do on my time away. One event that I'm particularly looking forward to is speaking on a panel of Justice Choir leaders at the National Chorus America conference held in Chicago. Abbie Betinis, our alto section leader, and the Executive Director of the national Justice Choir movement, will be presenting the significant work of Justice Choir – and of course, we here at Central have had several Justice Choir Sundays where folks of all ages and abilities have sung under the direction of one of our local leaders. I will be sharing about those experiences and how important they are in the life of a community that cares about social justice.

Jennifer has done good work to make musical arrangements during the six weeks of her sabbatical, and we will look forward to welcoming her back in worship on July 22.



In July, I'll be finishing my sabbatical at Synod School in Iowa where I'll be co-directing the Synod School Choir with Linda Kachelmeier.

I'll also be relaxing a bit – I'll be able to walk to our local Farmer's Market which is only open on Sunday mornings; I'll continue walking around Lake Harriet with maybe a more relaxed sense; I'll hopefully enjoy some meals grilled out on the back deck. All good things to do in the summer.

Fortunately, I have amazing colleagues that will be covering the Sundays that I am gone. You will be treated to wonderful music by a variety of artists – brass, piano, organ, and voice!

When I return I'll be ready to get moving on planning for the fall --- with a renewed sense of focus and gratitude for this community.

Thank you for this gift. And I'll see you in July!

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music Ministries

Welcome Guest Musicians!

SHARON KLECKNER will be joining Central as a guest organist on Sunday, June 10 and 24.



Sharon holds degrees in organ performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Syracuse University where she earned the Master of Music. She has taught at Keuka College in New York and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. Church positions include Minister of Music at House of Hope Presbyterian Church and assisting organist for 20 years at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis.

She holds a D.V.M. degree from University of Minnesota and practiced veterinary medicine, including operating a cat clinic in St. Paul for 10 years. She recently worked as a hospice R.N. for six years with certification in hospice and palliative care.

She is an avid equestrian, taking riding lessons twice weekly with a special love of jumping.

DAVID WINKWORTH will be singing as a soloist on Sunday, June 17 and 24.



David is the baritone section leader in the choir at Central. David is a recent transplant from the East Coast, where he served as Communications Director for a large Congregational church. He spent many years working in the corporate relocation industry. He currently works as an employee of Minnesota's Department of Human Services as a representative at MNsure, the state health insurance exchange. He studied voice at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and graduated with a degree in English from Oberlin College.

David has raised puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. He knows how to fold a mean fitted sheet.



Did you know that diapers are a great unmet need in most communities? The average child easily uses 2000+ diapers from birth until toilet training and yet diapers are not covered by food stamps, WIC, Medicaid or any special nutrition benefit package. Cloth is not possible to use if you lack resources to clean the diapers regularly. The richest Americans can use bulk buying and easy mobility to get deals on diapers; the poorest Americans use up to 14% of their budget to keep their children clean.

For two weeks in June, Central is collecting diapers of all sizes, especially larger ones. We will be donating them to families in need to help close the gap. Please bring diapers to church on June 10 or 17 and place them in the donation box. All brands are welcome.

Questions may be directed to Denny Reimer or Carl Willis or visit our website for more information.

Clearwater Summer Camp

The fun has begun and camp has started! Bring on the games, boating, hikes, high ropes, worship, laughter, fun, triumphs, songs, skits and adventure! Registration is now being accepted for youth entering 3rd grade through those currently finishing their senior year. Scholarship funds are available through Clearwater, so please don't let financial need get in the way of attending camp this summer. Register at www.clearwaterforest.org or call Clearwater directly at (218) 678-2325 for more information. Don't let the opportunity to see what God can do in a child's life slip through your fingers - register them today!

Never been to Clearwater Forest? Are you a little nervous about having your child away for the week? Ask around the congregation to find out what it is all about, come up for Friends and Family Day (June 10th) or call 218-678-2325 with questions.

Overnight at Interstate Park

Open to men and women, we have a group camp site reserved for 20 people on Friday, June 1 starting at 3:00 p.m. at Wisconsin Interstate Park. There will be a practice hike and gear discussions for people who want to learn more and prepare for the upcoming men's backpacking trips (But, anyone is welcome to camp with us during this trip!)

Jeremy and Kati Berg will grill vegan burgers to share at 6:00 p.m., beyond that it's "Bring Your Own Food/Utensils/Beverages/Equipment". The next morning, those who choose to hike the 8-hour, 8-mile practice hike will leave between 7:30 - 8 a.m. Those who choose simply to camp the night can stay until the 3:00 p.m. checkout. Please email jerberg424@gmail.com to RSVP your spot. If you want to hike but not camp the night before, let us know to look for you.

Summer Camp in the City!

Central is partnering with Clearwater Forest and House of Hope Presbyterian Church (HOH) to provide a four-day children's camp ministry. Summer Camp in the City is designed for young people who have completed grades K-6, but we are happy to welcome children entering kindergarten. Clearwater Forest staff will lead arts, games, Bible stories, and other hands-on activities throughout the week.

When: Camp in the City will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Monday - Thursday, June 18 - 21, 2018

Where: House of Hope Presbyterian Church
797 Summit Ave
St Paul, MN 55105

Register: To register for Summer Camp in the City go to <https://bit.ly/2JT7EbN>. If you have questions, contact Kiera Stegall at kieras@hohchurch.org.

Central will pay for kids from our church to attend, so once registered please let April Greibrook know at aprilg@cpcstpaul.org, so the registration fee can be paid.

Family Game Night

The Klaehn family will be again hosting Family Game Night on June 2 beginning at 4:00 p.m. They will provide a vegan friendly main dish, but, if willing and able, guests are invited to bring a small side dish, dessert or beverage to share.

Please RSVP to Jackie at jackieklaehn@gmail.com or call (507) 273-2081 for the address.

Upcoming Events

BOOK GROUP

Book group will meet Tuesdays, June 12 and 26 at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship room. *Maisie Dobbs* is the selection for June.

DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcas circle will meet for a social time on Thursday, June 14 at 11:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Bring your own lunch. coffee will be provided.

Thank You

Thank you to all the workers who helped clean the church on Saturday, May 12 and Thursday May 17: **Ned Taylor, Will Beall, Carl Willis, Al & Florette Hujanen, Sandy White, Gayle Smith, Marcia Robert, Mauwolawe Foli, Bill Zopfi, Doug Throckmorton, Casey Wells, Dwight Colby, and Mel & Fluryanne Leach.**

Gardening Opportunity

It is time to get the gardens at Central growing for the season! If you are interested to help work on Central's gardens, we need you! There are garden beds along both sides of the main entrance, and a small sun garden near the MPR parking lot. In addition to seeking people to work on our gardens, we are seeking a leader to coordinate a garden team that works on gardening tasks. In the spring a clean-up and plant splitting day. Then to coordinate a few fall clean up tasks. Small job, big reward!

If you are interested to work on the gardens, please let Anna Sanchez know as soon as possible at office@cpctestpaul.org or call 651-224-4728.



Don't miss out on important reminders, event announcements and church news! Follow Central online!



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
www.cpcstpaul.org



SUBSCRIBE TO MID-WEEK EMAILS!
www.cpcstpaul.org
(go to bottom of page for link to sign up)



EMAIL QUESTIONS ANYTIME!
office@cpctestpaul.org

Women of Central News

WOMEN'S NETWORKING DINNER

The group had so much fun at Sakura that we forgot to take a photo! Rather than showing a photo this month, we want to share a bit of what we learned about one another, in the form of a "guess who":

- Guess which two women have children living in Brooklyn?
- Guess which two women have a common southern Minnesota connection?
- Guess which two women both lived in Washington, DC (one as a child and one as an adult)?

And the connections went on and on. Join us for our upcoming events and learn the answers!



Wednesday, June 6
Red River Kitchen at
City House - 258 Mill Street



Thursday, July 12
Forepaugh's (downstairs)
276 South Exchange Street



Tuesday, August 7
Potluck
Kate Pearce's Home

As always, we will depart the church parking lot at 5:15 for the restaurant. You can also meet us at 5:30 at the restaurant. Come and join the fun!

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 and if child care is needed.

4TH SUNDAY KNITTING GROUP

As a reminder, we will not be meeting in June, July and August. The group will resume meeting in September.

This ministry has provided prayer shawls to many members and friends, and through this shares prayers for healing, health and peace. We currently will work on hats, mittens, scarves for the December Mitten Tree, as we have a good supply of prayer shawls for now, thanks to all who have made prayer shawls! We are looking for a new leader to coordinate this group. Please let Sue Hoffman know if you are interested to lead this group.



On Sunday, May 21, Central said goodbye (but not goodbye forever) to Bill Haugen, our tenor section leader, whose kind gentle spirit is as beautiful as his tenor voice.

Happy Birthday!

Virginia Juffer	6/3	Catherine McCarten.....	6/17
Rebecca Scott.....	6/3	John Lee	6/18
Anna Sanchez	6/7	Linda Morgan	6/19
Deborah Flies	6/9	Richard Barker	6/20
Kerry Bollman.....	6/10	Betty Obermeier.....	6/20
Carol Baldwin.....	6/12	Doris Johnson	6/22
Lisa Fry	6/12	Sandra White	6/26
Nickalos Sanders	6/12	Zachary Bollman	6/28
Beth Jagger	6/13	Gavin Gustafson.....	6/29
Carolyn Hess.....	6/14	Louise French.....	6/30
Lynda Petrie.....	6/15		

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

Farewell to April Greibrok

April Greibrok has worked with Central’s children for nine years, first in the nursery, then as preschool teacher, and most recently as the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries. April will be starting a full-time position as lead preschool teacher for the Dodge Nature Preschool in West Saint Paul. (April did a internship at Dodge in the summer of 2017 as part of her graduate school thesis project, and then was there part-time during the 2017-18 school year.)

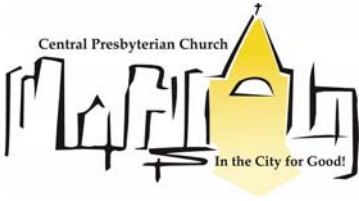
We hope you can join us on Sunday, June 10 (her last day on staff) as we thank April for her work with Central!



Central in the News

Pick up the June edition of **Downtown St. Paul Voice** and see a cover page article on Central’s new new food initiative!

You can read it online at:
https://issuu.com/stpaulpublishing/docs/dtn_june_2018



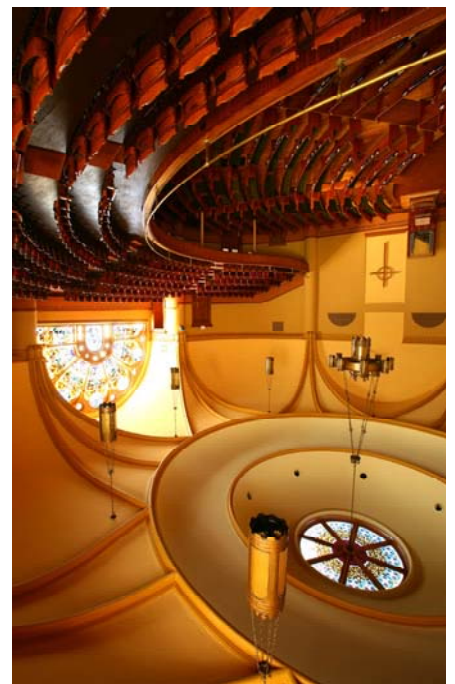
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