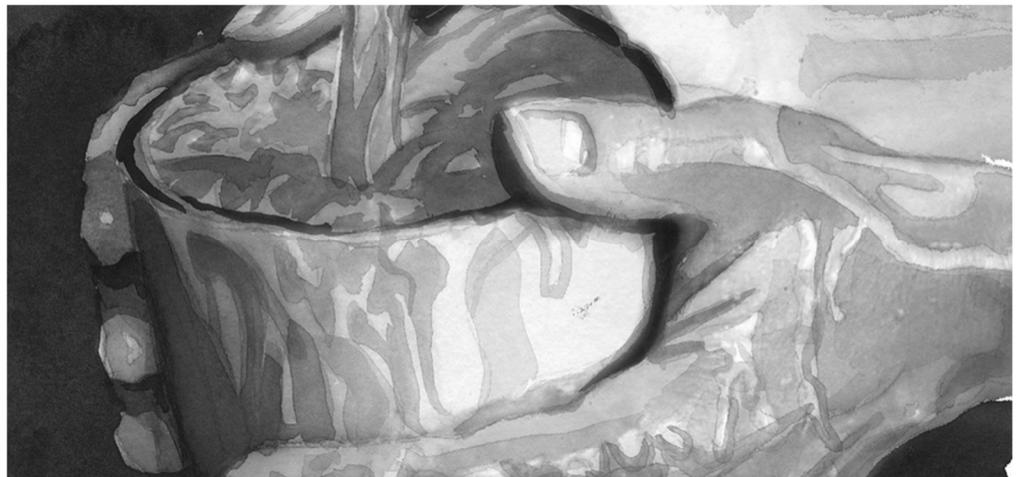


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A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LENT

[FROM REV. CAROL REED]

When churches first locked down at the beginning of the pandemic caused by the coronavirus, we were approaching the season of Lent. A friend sent me a text at the start of Lent 2020 that said:

“Honestly hadn’t planned on giving up quite this much for Lent!”

For many Christians, Lent does mark a time for giving up something. It is a good spiritual discipline, but I wonder how it actually helps me draw closer to God and the meaning of Jesus’ own

sacrifices if I give up chocolate or caffeine for six weeks.

In recent years I have been thinking about Lenten spiritual practices as adding something into my life in the weeks leading to Easter – perhaps adding extra time for prayer or Scripture reading. Or perhaps it is additional giving, be it volunteer work or giving to the special Lenten offering, One Great Hour of Sharing.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 2. The church counts down forty days with emphasis on Palm Sunday and extra services during Holy Week, to finally celebrate the day of resurrection on Easter.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

UPCOMING WORSHIP

**WORSHIP IN-PERSON
SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.**

**SERVICES STREAMED LIVE
ONLINE ON SELECT SUNDAYS**

At this time, Central has committed to live-streaming worship on the second and third Sundays of each month. Additional worship weekends will be broadcast as volunteers sign on to provide that needed help. If you would like to be trained on video services for future volunteering, please contact the office to be put in contact with head videographers Josh Voelker and Kiera Faye.

Wednesday, March 2

**ASH WEDNESDAY
12:30 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.**

MATTHEW 6:1-6
JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are invited to reflect on our theme for the season: "Overflowing with Grace." The prophet Joel proclaims, "return to God with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." Your brokenness, joy, gifts, and doubts all belong to God. God wants you, authentically. God wants you, stripped down and vulnerable. You are enough. Come as you are, with all that you are.

At the 12:30 service, Wendy Flinner will play piano, at the 7:00 p.m. service, Central Choir will sing and Steve Swanson will play piano.

Sunday, March 6

LUKE 4:1-13
DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

Rev. Reed preaches "Overflowing with Grace: Even in the Desert." Even in the desert, Jesus expands our definitions of a full life. It's not the life the Tempter presents: a life defined by excess power, control, or reign. Excess is not abundance, but there is more. There is a fuller life we are called to live. Even in the midst of struggle, oppressive forces, hardship, and grief - God's promises spill over, like the bounty of the first fruits from the ground. Even in the desert, you are called to the riverside to be washed by grace.

Central Choir will sing and Steve Swanson will play piano. This service will be live-streamed.

Sunday, March 13

LUKE 13:31-35
PSALM 27

Rev. Reed preaches "Overflowing with Grace: Under God's Wing." God is our refuge. There is nothing that can separate you from God, or keep God from gathering you in, protecting you fiercely. Jesus' lament for Jerusalem is surprising given how he is treated by Jerusalem. And yet, no matter how much we try to separate ourselves from God, God will run to protect us. God's love for us is fuller than we can imagine.

Central Choir will sing with Patrick Henning on organ and the Chamber Ensemble will play. This service will be live-streamed.

Sunday, March 20

LUKE 13:1-9
ISAIAH 55:1-9

Rev. Reed preaches "Overflowing with Grace: You are Worthy." Like the fig tree, you are worthy. You're not a lost cause. You're not a waste of resources. You deserve to be nurtured. Your fruit will come. Like the gardener, you are invited to see others with audacious hope and budding potential. The lesson of the fig tree invites us to unpack the source of our worth in a system and society that often measures worthiness by commerce, production, output, success, status, achievement, ethnicity, or gender identity. We might ask, "Can the fig tree have worth even if it never produces any figs?" What does that mean for us if the answer is "yes"?

Central Choir will sing, Handbell Ensemble will play, and Steve Swanson and Jennifer Anderson will share a piano and organ duet.

Sunday, March 27

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32
2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

Join the Central Choir for this special Sunday "Overflowing with Grace: Reflection" as we hear music and spoken reflections on grace, featuring several special guests.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

[FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE]

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with those who have least. That is what the Special Offering *One Great Hour of Sharing* is all about.

Providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support to the poor and oppressed are the key areas of focus for this

special offering.

- 36% of donations collected will be distributed to the Presbyterian Hunger Program.
- 32% will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and support recovery efforts around the world.
- 32% will go to Self-Development of People for grassroots projects.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on Palm Sunday (April 10). Donations can be made through the worship offering plate or online at www.centralforgood.org/give and click on One Great Hour of Sharing from the special offerings. Text SHARING to 56512 to learn how your gift makes a difference, or visit www.pcusa.org/oghs.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We are still coming out of a time where we have been forced to give up much. Jennifer Anderson and I, in considering a theme for worship services in Lent, decided to steer clear of the sacrifice imagery and instead focus on the abundant gifts of God. Our theme for Lent is:

Overflowing with Grace

We will look at God's grace given freely and abundantly, and how we in turn share God's abundant grace with others.

Please join us as we begin the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday. To mark the beginning of Lent, there will be short, reflective services on March 2 at both 12:30 p.m. and in the evening at 7:00 p.m.

Blessing to you this Lenten season, and together as a community, may we feel the grace of God in a deepened way.

FULL TO THE BRIM

God who knows us, we are amazed by you.

Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry,
your joy never gives up.

We wish that we could be more like you in that way.

In a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking.

In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling.

In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating.

We long for these things.

So today we ask you - be with us on the hamster wheel.

Be with us when compassion fatigue rears her head.

Be with us when stress makes it hard to breathe.

Be with us when self-doubt pushes in close.

Be with us when exhaustion becomes constant

or when loneliness becomes our primary language.

Be with us, and show us the way to the life you long for us.

Show us a life of expansive faith.

Show us a life of overflowing joy.

Show us a life of absorbing beauty.

Show us a life of engrossing purpose.

Show us a life that is as honest, and rich,
and meaningful as the one Jesus led... Amen.

Prayer from "Full to the Brim - An Expansive Lent from Sanctified Art," by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

WONDERFUL NEWS FROM VOCALPOINT

[FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON]

\$38,750.39 was raised, all of which supports The Lift Garage.

VocalPoint Artistic Director, Jennifer Anderson, extends a sincere thank you to all for your support of this work; knowing that many of you attended the concerts (in person or on-line) and made financial contributions, as well as other ways you made this possible: mask makers, ticket sellers, singers, etc.

VocalPoint remains very grateful to Central for the use of this beautiful space, and the many volunteers who make the weekend happen.





MUSIC NEWS

[FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON]

Central Musicians in Concert

You are invited to St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis for their monthly organ concert series, which in March features performers Jennifer Anderson (organ) and Steve Swanson (piano). Free and open to the public

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
12:30 P.M. TO 1:15 P.M.



St. Olaf is blessed to have a magnificent 67-rank pipe organ. It will be showcased in a series of recitals on Wednesday afternoons, immediately following the noon Mass. Come hear the organ thunder with might and whisper gently as talented organists showcase a variety of repertoire.

Before Bach's Birthday Bash

Love the Pipe Organ? Spend a day listening to different instruments along the beautiful Summit Avenue

as different performers showcase Bach (who celebrates a birthday mid-March) plus a bit of bonus Max Reger (perhaps the best composer of contrapuntal music after Bach, with a rich catalog of works beyond the organ, too). Our Music Director, Jennifer Anderson, will be at several of the venues and would love to see you there!

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Chapel of the Saint Paul Seminary
2260 Summit Avenue

NOTE: this event will be further shared via a LIVE Classical MPR broadcast

1999 Noack, mechanical key/stop action (2 manuals, 22 stops/27 ranks) and Kawai 7' grand piano.

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel of the University of St. Thomas
Cleveland Avenue North between

Ashland and Portland

1987 Kney, mechanical key action & electric stop action (3 manuals, 40 stops, 56 ranks) and Steinway 9' grand piano.

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Episcopal Church of St. Clement
901 Portland Avenue

1964 Aeolian-Skinner, electro-pneumatic key/stop action (2 manuals, 26 stops, 27 ranks)

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street

1921 Skinner/2008 Schantz, electro-pneumatic key/ stop action (4 manuals, 47 stops, 55 ranks).

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
House of Hope Presbyterian Church
797 Summit Avenue

1979 Fisk, mechanical key/stop action (4 manuals, 63 stops, 97 ranks) and Bösendorfer Imperial grand piano.

HOMELESS DAY ON THE HILL

Every year, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless hosts Homeless Day on the Hill at the State Capitol (with a kick-off at Central). Hundreds convene for a day of advocacy, meetings with lawmakers, committee hearings, stories of impact and more. This year, MCH will host a three-day online event March 9-11 and will organize lawmaker visits virtually.

MCH will attempt to schedule visits with lawmakers based on legislative districts. This is an amazing opportunity to speak with your lawmakers on the issues that are most important to you in the effort to make sure every Minnesotan has a safe and dignified home. To learn more, go to www.mnhomelesscoalition.org.

CENTRAL IS A BEACON CHURCH

[FROM LEON OMAN]

What is Beacon?

Beacon is a collaborative of 100 metro area congregations united to create homes and advance equitable housing. Beacon churches are guided by the vision that all people have a home. We are people of faith advocating for that vision with our values at the MN State Capitol.

Several Central Members asked their legislators to support the bill, "Bring It Home Minnesota" (HR 40). (Depending on availability, visits were not able to be scheduled with every legislator.)

Why HR 40?

Over 550,000 Minnesota households pay too much of their income to rent. When a family is struggling to keep their home, it impacts their work, their children, their health, and the entire community. We need a solution as big as the problem. This bill, if passed, would appropriate money for a state rent assistance program for low-income cost-burdened households.



Thank You Volunteers

A big THANK YOU to the following people at Central who recently met virtually with a MN State Representative regarding Bring It Home Minnesota, HR 40:

- Nancy Colby (+ State Senator)
- Wendy Flinner
- Maggie Gordon
- Faith Latimer (+ State Senator)
- Heidi Jernstedt
- Chris Kwong
- Ernest Lloyd
- Leon Oman

- Lynne Severson
- Maureen Smith
- Barb Swanson
- Casey Wells

Virgie Bundy, Roger Grussing and Catherine Lloyd wrote to their legislators regarding HR40.

If you want to learn more about Beacon Housing Collaborative and the work of the Beacon team at Central, reach out to Leon Oman, Maggie Gordon, or Barb Swanson, or contact the church office to be put in touch with a member of the Beacon committee.

SAVE THE DATE FOR CENTRAL'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 27 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers,

hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, and receiving the annual report. We will also review and vote on proposed changes to the church by-laws and may also be electing members of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

The annual report will soon be available for review. Download it from Central's website at www.centralforgood.org/annual-report, pick up a hard copy from the Central office, or request a copy be mailed to you by calling Anna Sanchez at (651) 224-4728.

CHILDREN MINISTRY NEWS

[FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON]

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m. – Nursery care available with Megan and volunteers

10:30 a.m. – Worship; Following the Time for Children, kids are invited upstairs for Sunday Connection with Laura Walls and volunteers.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

During Lent, our theme is “Overflowing with Grace.” While we consider what it means to live a life abundant in grace, we can also share abundantly with others!

Our children will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Boxes in worship on March 6, and we will have special activities all during Lent centered around the idea of abundance and sharing. (If you would prefer to have your fish box mailed to you, simply let me know.)



IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY?

We want to celebrate YOU!

We are told by the Psalmist that we are each “wonderfully made” and on our birthdays, it is a good time to celebrate that! Come to church on (or near) your birthday and find a special little gift just for you!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

[FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON]

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Middle School: 1st and 3rd Sundays, following worship, up in Youth Room.

High School: 1st and 3rd Sundays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., up in Youth Room.

*Snacks always provided.

PRIORITIES

There are three things that we’ll be concentrating on as we begin on March 6:

1. Personalizing the Youth Room. Heads-up: The Youth Room has moved. It is now up in what used to be the CE Office (at the top of the stairs). But it looks nothing like it did, I promise. It’s ready for you to come and add your own touches.....

2. Getting ready to lead the Maundy

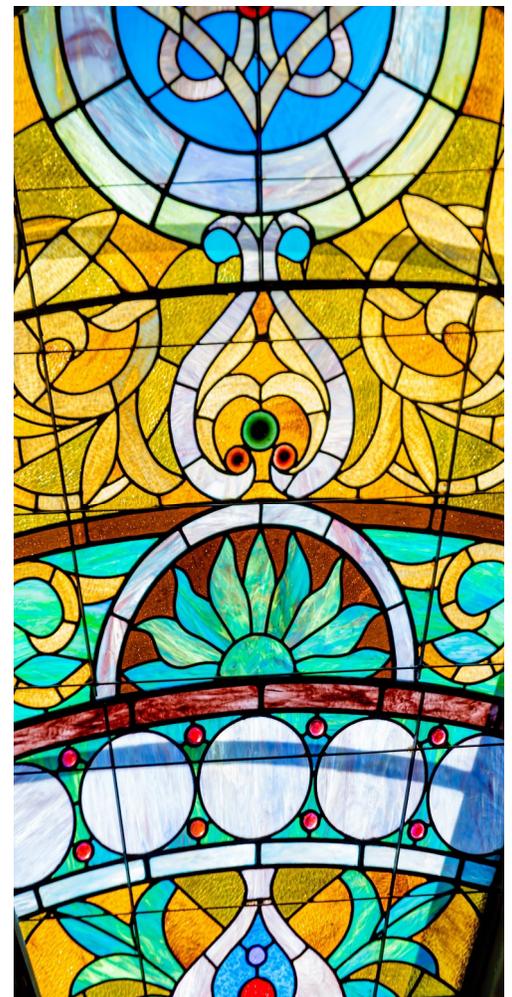
Thursday “Overflowing with Grace” service that will be fully youth-led. Mark your calendars! Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. (Youth will need to arrive earlier; stay tuned for details.)

3. Talking and Listening. Talking with each other, about what’s on our minds and big questions we have. Listening to each other, hearing what’s important and what we wonder about. And, talking and listening to God; hearing what the Bible has to say to us today.

I’m looking forward to this new adventure with each of you. See you on March 6 if not before!

QUESTIONS?

Simply drop Jennifer a note at jennifera@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext 103.



BE A PART OF NEW GROWTH

Volunteer with the Children and Youth Ministry

[FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON]

A healthy, vibrant church is one that welcomes ALL ages and provides space for young and old alike to learn, pray, and serve together. If you are interested in seeing our Children and Youth Ministries grow and thrive, I invite you to contribute in a way that best suits your gifts.

There is a sign-up outside the sanctuary for the following specific ministry areas:

I can help with special projects (like the Easter Egg Hunt, doing Bulletin Boards, special activities) Jennifer will contact you with details.

I can help by being one of the volunteers who attends the Middle School or Sr. High Youth Group meeting. Requirements: You care about young people. You don't need to know how to lead games or do

crafts or know the coolest lingo. Just care about kids and enjoy spending time with them.

- Middle School (after church on 1st and 3rd Sundays).

- Sr. High School (6:30 pm on 1st and 3rd Sundays).

I can help on Sunday mornings with the Sunday Connection time (following the Time for Children) upstairs in the Education Wing.

I can help on Sunday mornings in the Nursery providing care to our littlest ones.

Thank you for caring for our children as they grow in their faith.

If you have questions about volunteering with children and youth ministries or would like to sign up, simply email Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 103.



Volunteers in year's past have had a blast hiding eggs for the annual egg hunt!



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facebook.com/centralforgood



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/centralforgood



WATCH VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE
youtube.com (search for Central)



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
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twitter.com/cpcmusic



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www.centralforgood.org



SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS EMAILS
www.centralforgood.org/newsletter



VOLUNTEER TO HELP
centralforgood.org/volunteer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proposed Additions to Central's By-laws

[FROM MEL LEACH]

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. This will be a hybrid meeting, combining in-person and Zoom modes of attendance. One of the agenda items will be to propose adding two new by-laws. Although the by-laws are new, both subjects have been church policies for years. However, they have been less visible of late. Session considers the best way to make these both visible and generally accepted is to propose the topics as By-laws. The proposed amendments are:

- "All persons, including employees, are forbidden to bring weapons onto church premises. This includes but is not limited to guns.
- The use, sale, transfer or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol or controlled substances on church property is prohibited. Session may approve exceptions to this for specific events and may delegate this authority to a session committee."

Please give these items your prayerful consideration in advance of the meeting.

Women's Networking Group

[FROM SUE HOFFMAN]

At this time of this article, we plan to return to Celeste on Thursday, March

10 at 5:30 p.m. You can park in the Central parking lot and walk across Cedar Street to meet us.

We are, however, closely monitoring the COVID situation, and may shift to an online meeting format should the situation warrant a change in venue/approach. Please watch eConnect and our WNG email notifications to stay informed about the latest plans. You can join our WNG email list by sending a note to women@centralforgood.org.

Please RSVP by March 7 if you plan to attend by emailing women@centralforgood.org.

Volunteer Opportunity

[BY SHARON ZOPFI-JORDAN]

The Coordinated Mission Committee is seeking volunteers to serve the lunch at the St. Paul Opportunity Center / Higher Ground from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. (St Paul Opportunity Center is part of Catholic Charities and is located at 422 Dorothy Day Place, St. Paul.)

If interested in volunteering, go to www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. A link will take you to the Catholic Charities website to register and answer questions regarding COVID vaccination status.

We are looking for 8-10 volunteers who are at least 16 years old and should wear appropriate closed toed footwear. Questions may be directed to Anna Sanchez in the Central office.



Happy Birthday!

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

Laura Walls	3/1
Caitlyn Welch	3/2
Barb Westman	3/3
William Zopfi	3/3
Andrei Kelly-Kennedy	3/8
David Fisher	3/9
Marilyn Gjerde	3/9
Laura Henry	3/10
Farie Hogue	3/10
Jean Thein	3/12
Stephanie Geisler	3/14
Sally Mortenson	3/14
Alexis Linner	3/15
Lawrence Larson	3/17
Cora Jones	3/18
Jeffery Linner	3/18
Gloriana Wolf	3/18
Abe Smith	3/19
Paula Coeey	3/21
Mary Lou Gilstad	3/24
Derek Peterson	3/25
Mary Rose Lee	3/26

If we missed you, send a note to office@centralforgood.org so we can update our notes and share birthday wishes with you, too!

ANTI-RACISM EVENT

Thank you to the Anti-Racism Task Force for hosting its recent intergenerational gathering to explore color and story in the creation of an Ojibwe bandolier bag.

The basic design was provided by a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, through the Minnesota Historical Society, and participants were able to keep the bags they decorated.

Central witnessed a wonderful mix of ages and backgrounds sharing in this event. (Thank you also to Maureen Smith for capturing it all!)



CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed,
Transitional Pastor
carolr@centralforgood.org, ext. 102

ADMINISTRATION

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

Christie Rachele,
Director of Communications
christier@centralforgood.org, ext. 105
(952) 564-4472

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
Lavar Jones & Peter Evarts, Custodians

PROGRAMS

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

Laura Walls, Sunday Connection
Coordinator, ext. 109
lauraw@centralforgood.org

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

Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher
Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

COMMUNITY MEALS

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager
barb.westman@gmail.com

Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef

MARTHA'S CLOSET

Sandy White, Director
martha@centralforgood.org, ext. 112



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Knitting with Purpose

Every month knitters and crocheters of all ages and skill levels gather to create.

Prayer shawls to provide comfort in difficult times, pocket shawls for reflection, scarves and mittens for those in need... the list goes on.

Put your talents and craftiness to work and be a part of this fun and talented group!

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*