

The *Central* Idea

Central Presbyterian Church
"Celebrating God's Wildly Inclusive Love"



March 2010



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The deadline for each month's issue of *The Central Idea* is the 15th of the preceding month.

Please send your article to office@centralchurchky.org

The deadline for the April issue is March 15.

Mark's Remarks

Dear Friends,

The theme that has arisen for me from many of our Lenten lectionary readings is God's faithfulness and steadfast love for all of creation. As our family has dealt with my mother's multiple ailments, we have been reminded of the words of Lamentations—

*"The steadfast love of the Holy One never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness."*

One of the things I am working on giving up for Lent is being so much of a "buzzard".

Buzzards can be flying over a beautiful landscape and totally overlook the trees, flowers, and rock formations to concentrate only on a dead carcass on the ground. We, too, can miss the beauty of God's love being shown around us every day by concentrating on the small amount of ugliness we might find in the midst of all the beauty. We may have encountered a hundred loving people in a given week and let ourselves have negative thoughts because of the mean behavior of one or two people.

If we take time to look at God's faithfulness and love around us, we will be amazed at how God is at work in the world! Let's make an effort to read about God's love and then look for ways we see it manifest around us every day. If we do that, Lent will truly be a time of renewal and refreshment for us.

Love and Peace,

Mark Baridon, Co-Pastor

Two opportunities...

Kathy Packard has agreed to teach a session on canning. Canning locally grown produce is a great way to support local farmers and reduce our carbon footprint. Would you like to learn how to can, from a pro?

Many of us have parents who are in declining health. Whether they are far away or living near us, we worry for them and want to know how to best support them during this difficult time in their lives. If you are dealing with this, would you like to spend an evening with others for support, discussion, and refreshment?

If you have an interest in either of these opportunities, please call me at the church office—587-6935 x13.

Thinking Out Loud

Rev. Ann Deibert

Lent has historically been a season of fasting. We may be most familiar with the fast from meat on Fridays. Some people fast from chocolate or soda. I'd like to suggest a different kind of fast this Lent.

In Lent, we fast to lay aside the distractions that keep us from listening to God. We fast from that which insulates us from the transforming fire of the Spirit. We let go of what inoculates us against the resurrecting power of Christ to make our hearts burn within us.

The Lenten fast is not a diet plan or a call to take on suffering for its own sake. We fast in order to notice the light of God in us; to listen to God; to perceive God's call to serve others; and to find out where in the world God's glory is needed and can shine through us.

At the Ash Wednesday service, I mentioned A.J. Jacobs' book, *The Year of Living Biblically*. It was the story of his quest to live the ultimate biblical life—to follow every single rule in the bible, as literally as possible. Jacobs wanted to find out if the bible had any relevance in the 21st century.

Out of his biblical year, Jacobs came up with four rules to continue to be meaningful for him to live by. These rules could easily be part of our Lenten fast.

1) Honor the Sabbath. "We live in a society where it's all work all the time. So there's something special" he says "about this one day each week where we can really connect with" other people in our lives.

He's talking about fasting from our obsession with work. Fasting from working all the time; always being available; always checking email, texting or twittering. Perhaps to honor the Sabbath means fasting from our technology some of the time. I don't mean you have to give it up altogether or that it's bad. But I do mean fasting in order to create space in our lives to listen to God and to pay attention to something other than work and tasks and the endless "to do" list that most of us carry around.

2) Be grateful. "It feels good to be thankful for the hundreds of things that go right every day as opposed to focusing on the three or four that go wrong."

Fast from griping and complaining. All through the bible we're commanded to praise God and to delight in God's creation. What might God be able to do in us if we began each day with gratitude for the gift of the day, for the ability to get out of bed, for the gift of clean water to drink, a couple of people who think we're really great, a safe place to lay our heads down and rest at days' end?

3) Value humility. Jacobs says, "I've learned that humans are born to be delusionally arrogant. Something like 70 percent of people think they are above-average drivers, and that's obviously impossible. A dose of humility would make our world a lot better."

Fast from presumption and an inflated ego. Fast from putting others down so you can feel better about yourself. Fast from a world view of three: me, myself and I. We follow the way of Jesus who, the writer of Mark's gospel reminds us, came not to be served but to serve.

4) Stop gossiping. Jacobs again: "It really helped my life [to stop gossiping] because when I stopped speaking negatively about people, I stopped thinking negatively as well. I became much more positive about my species."

Fast from complaining about people. Fast from being crabby with others. Fast from judging others. Fast from attributing motives to others whose shoes you haven't walked in and whose true motivations you do not know.

Four fasts from a year of living biblically. Fasts that create space for us to listen to God. Who knows but that our lives will be transformed to loose bonds of injustice, to free the oppressed, to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless and to clothe the naked? When we do those things, then "your light shall break forth like the dawn," writes Isaiah, "and your healing shall spring up quickly." (chapter 58)

Highlights of January 2010 Session Meeting

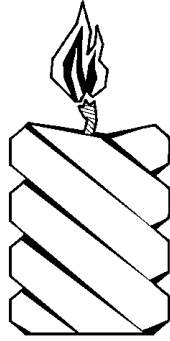
- * Received as New Members: Ms. Kathy Packard, Mr. Ralph Packard, Ms. Mary Molloy Thompson and Mr. Sam Molloy. They will be welcomed in worship on Sunday, February 21, 2010.
- Examined Elder-elect Dee Cochran and approved her installation.
- * Approved a Recommendation from the Congregational Nominating Committee that the size of the session be decreased from 15 to 9 because we currently have a very large session and as we move towards empowering more and more members into leadership roles, we will have less need for so many session members.

This change will require a change in Central's By-Laws and will be announced with the call for The Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 7, 2010.
- * Approved the following special requests to the congregation for extra funds in 2010:
 1. Four General Assembly Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering, Christmas Joy Offering. Central's share of Pentecost and Peacemaking Offering beneficiaries to be approved at a later date.
 2. Souper Bowl of Caring sponsored by the youth of the church; beneficiary is HELP Ministries.
 3. Annual Yard Sale sponsored by the Social Justice Learning Action Team; beneficiaries to be approved at a later date.
 4. Elementary and/or Tweens Class Mission Project (to be determined by the class leadership in consultation with the children); beneficiaries to be approved at a later date.
 5. Hunger Walk, AIDS Walk and Peace Education Concert Fundraiser
 6. Special appeals made through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (such as Haiti Earthquake Relief and Recovery).
 7. Faith Forum Class Mission Project: Scholarships for students at the School of Theology of the Reformed University of Colombia where PCUSA mission co-worker, the Rev. Alice Winters, teaches Bible and biblical languages.
- * "Signed on" to Overture to the General Assembly prepared by Crescent Hill PC and coming to the floor of presbytery at the February 20, 2010 meeting. It deletes G-6.0106b and provides new language in its place. It is essentially the same as an overture coming from Western Reserve Presbytery at the end of January (Note: James Lees PC and Highland PC have also signed on.)
- * MSD has approved our flood abatement work and will pay for it. The plumbers can start the work next week.
- * Received an additional \$2,950.00 from GuideOne Insurance for cleaning in the basement in the aftermath of the flooding in August, for a total of \$122,634.79.
- * Received copies of a detailed plan titled "Social Justice Learning Action Team Partners with Englehard Elementary."
- * Approved Sexual Misconduct Team for Central: Rev. Richard Carlson and Elder Jeanie King
- * Approved Annual Reports to the General Assembly for 2009 prepared by the Clerk of Session: Questionnaire, Church Statistics, Terms of Call for each pastor.
- * Removed from Church Register: Ms. Carla Quinn and Ms. Pat Gleich at their request. They are becoming members of Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola, FL.
- * Membership Report: 166 members; 5 affiliate members; 22 clergy friends = 193
- * Average Worship Attendance Report: December 2009 = 215 (December 2008 = 149)
2009: Choir Cantata = 258; Christmas Eve = 192; Annual Average Worship Attendance = 137
2008: Choir Cantata = 181; Christmas Eve = 175; Annual Average Worship Attendance = 132

Eileene MacFalls, Clerk of Session

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Sydel Rhema | 1 |
| Dave Pafundi | 2 |
| Guy Younce | 2 |
| Linda Bennett | 7 |
| Beth Eirk | 8 |
| Glenn Asauskas | 10 |
| Ruben Moreno | 13 |
| Joanna McLemore | 14 |
| Sharon Clements | 18 |
| Shawn O'Bannon | 18 |
| George Perkins | 20 |



**HAPPY
HAPPY
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Halsey Sandford | 21 |
| Leslie Cobb | 21 |
| Charles Stanford | 22 |
| PJ Mong | 24 |
| Ann Deibert | 25 |
| Melanie Smith | 25 |
| Marie Bradby | 26 |
| Ann Downs | 27 |
| Alexandra Rhema | 27 |
| Larry Law | 30 |
| Nancy Troy | 30 |

Special Gifts

(received since the February issue of *The Central Idea*)

*** For Englehard Reading Program: Books**

* Angela Hagan

*** For Rascals of Ragtime**

* Mark Baridon

* David Wheeler

*** For Mission and Outreach Fund**

* Arch Taylor, Jr.

*** In memory of William M. Riley**

* Anna Harrison

The Special Gift envelopes are an ongoing opportunity for you to give to Central throughout the year. Our thanks to you for your generosity and thoughtfulness!

Eileene MacFalls, Clerk of Session

Fabulous Faith Forum—Women's History Month

March 7—Linda Bennett will lead a discussion based on a video from the Presbyterian Women's Gathering

March 14—Barbara Roche will review the Book *Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels*

March 21 & 28—More of the DVD series "Uppity Women of the Bible"

The Faith Forum class meets in the "Forum" room adjoining the chapel at 9:30 every Sunday. Please come and invite a friend!

The Year of Living Biblically Book Study

After learning about AJ Jacobs' book, I'm interested in reading it and talking about it with a group. If you'd like to be a part of a book discussion on *The Year of Living Biblically*, let me know by email, phone or in person. We'd start after Easter and meet in Crescent Hill.

Ann Deibert

First Friday Friends — Friday, March 5

- * We will meet at the Baxter Theatre for food, fellowship, and films!
- * Please check the bulletin or watch for an e-mail announcement of when to meet and which film has been selected.
- * We will gather after the movie to eat and discuss!



Bring a friend or come alone and meet a friend!

Tired of paper? Want to Read the *Central Idea* On-line?

If you're ready to give up your mailed, paper copy of the monthly newsletter in favor of reading it each month on-line, email Reneitha Causey in the church office (office@centralchurchky.org) and let her know. We'll send you an email each month with the link to the current issue. You can also find past issues on our website:

www.centralchurchky.org.

Yard Sale? Yard Sale? Yard Sale?

In the past we have been already reminding you about the upcoming yard sale by now. If you are wondering, we have decided to go to an every other year sale, so the next one will be in August 2011. It is a huge amount of work and Humphrey needed a year off! If you have items you need to get rid of this year, we invite you to contact Bethlehem United Church of Christ, located 1480 S. 6th Street, phone number 502-634-0990. They hold a sale twice a month and it is one of the ways they fund their ministry. If you would like for your stuff to come to Central's next sale, you may bring it to the Carriage House.

Instead of the yard sale we will be sponsoring Peace Education Day at Buckhead Mountain Grill in Jeffersonville, IN on Tuesday, April 20th. You can eat lunch or dinner at Buckhead's that day, present flyer which are found on the table outside the church office and 20% of your check will be donated to Peace Education.

Annual Congregational Meeting of 2010

This year's annual meeting of the congregation will take place after worship. The annual meeting of the congregation is the meeting where a new class of elders is elected, reports of all committees and staff are received by the congregation and any other business as is appropriate may be heard. Also on the agenda is a recommendation from the session to amend the by-laws to reduce the size of the session from 15 to 9 elders. Printed copies of the annual reports are available today in the back of the sanctuary. An email copy is available by emailing of-[fice@centralchurchky.org](mailto:office@centralchurchky.org). As with all meetings of the congregation, anyone can attend. Clergy friends have voice in the meeting. Members of the congregation have voice and vote.

Join the Lunch Bunch for Brunch Sunday, March 21 (Third Sunday)

We meet after worship at *The Bristol*, 614 W. Main Street.

- * Buffet lunch with the food readily available
- * Cost is \$13.99, plus beverage, 10% senior discount for those over 60, and kids menus are available
- * Free parking on Sundays in the parking garage behind *The Bristol*, on 6th Street
- * Your guests and friends are welcome
- * Reservations are not necessary
- * Ask the host for the Central table.



March

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Mon Mar 1 | 6pm – 10pm | Pandora Rehearsal & Board - C |
| Tue Mar 2 | 5:30pm – 8pm | AIM Board Meeting - FR |
| | 6pm – 10pm | Pandora Rehearsal & Board - S |
| | 7pm – 8pm | Tuesday study group |
| Wed Mar 3 | 6pm – 10pm | Pandora Rehearsal & Board - FR |
| Thu Mar 4 | 6:30pm | Rehearsal: Taize Evening Prayer - C,FR,AR,L |
| | 8pm | Taize Evening Prayer |
| Fri Mar 5 | 7pm | First Friday Friends - Baxter Theatres |
| Sat Mar 6 | 9am – 10am | Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR |
| | 9am – 12pm | Sanctuary reserved |
| | 9:30am – 2pm | CFAIR Interviews - YR |
| | 9:30am – 2:30pm | Anchorage Confirmation Class - LS |
| | 10am – 12pm | Tutoring - C, A, F, L, CR |
| | 12pm – 1pm | Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR |
| Sun Mar 7 | 8:45am – 9:30am | Orchestra Rehearsal - S |
| | 9:15am | Choir Practice - ChR |
| | 9:15am | Child Care for Infants to 5-Years-Old - LL |
| | 9:30am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30am | Coffee and Snacks - C |
| | 11am | Worship - S |
| | 1:30pm – 6:30pm | CFAIR Interviews - YR |
| | 3pm – 7pm | Voices of Kentuckiana - C |
| Tue Mar 9 | 7pm | Tuesday study group |
| Thu Mar 11 | 6:30pm | Rehearsal: Taize Evening Prayer - C,FR,AR,L |
| | 8pm | Taize Evening Prayer |
| Sat Mar 13 | 9am – 10am | Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR |
| | 9am – 12pm | Sanctuary reserved |
| | 10am – 12pm | Tutoring - C, A, F, L, CR |
| | 12pm – 1pm | Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR |
| Sun Mar 14 | 8:45am | Orchestra Rehearsal - S |
| | 9:15am | Choir Practice - ChR |
| | 9:15am | Child Care for Infants to 5-Years-Old - LL |
| | 9:30am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30am | Coffee and Snacks - C |
| | 11am | Worship - S |
| | 3pm – 7pm | Voices of Kentuckiana - C |
| Mon Mar 15 | 1pm – 9pm | Peace Education - FR, C, CR |
| | 6pm | Session Meeting - FR |
| Tue Mar 16 | | Peace Education Workshop - FR, C |
| | 3pm – 9pm | Buddy Dinner - C |
| Wed Mar 17 | 8am – 5pm | Peace Education Workshop - FR, C, CR |
| | 6:30pm – 7:30pm | NA - HI - FR |
| Thu Mar 18 | | Peace Education Board Meeting - FR |
| | 6:30pm | Rehearsal: Taize Evening Prayer - C,FR,AR,L |
| | 8pm | Taize Evening Prayer |



March

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Sat Mar 20 | 9am – 10am 9am – 12pm 10am – 12pm 12pm – 1pm | Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR Sanctuary reserved Tutoring - C, A, F, L, CR Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR |
| Sun Mar 21 | 8:45am 9:15am 9:15am 9:30am 10:30am 11am 12:15pm – 2pm 3pm – 7pm | Orchestra Rehearsal - S Choir Practice - ChR Child Care for Infants to 5-Years-Old - LL Sunday School Coffee and Snacks - C Worship - S Lunch Bunch - Bristol Voices of Kentuckiana - C |
| Tue Mar 23 | 7pm | Tuesday study group |
| Thu Mar 25 | 6:30pm 8pm | Rehearsal: Taize Evening Prayer - C,FR,AR,L Taize Evening Prayer |
| Sat Mar 27 | 9am – 10am 9am – 12pm 10am – 12pm 12pm – 1pm | Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR Sanctuary reserved Tutoring - C, A, F, L, CR Rooms Reserved - C, A, L, F, CR |
| Sun Mar 28 | 8:45am 9:15am 9:15am 9:30am 10:30am 11am 3pm – 7pm | Palm/Passion Sunday Orchestra Rehearsal - S Choir Practice - ChR Child Care for Infants to 5-Years-Old - LL Sunday School Coffee and Snacks - C Worship - S Voices of Kentuckiana - C |
| Tue Mar 30 | 7pm – 8pm | Tuesday study group |

Central Presbyterian Church

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Louisville, KY
Permit No. 586

Return service requested

March

«CI Mailing Label Name»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip Code»

Postmaster: Please Deliver by 3/12/10

Easter Flowers Order Form

Return this form with a check made payable to Central Presbyterian Church to the church office. The deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 21.

Flowers may be picked up after the Easter Sunday service.

Name _____

Phone _____

I want to order : _____ (#) lilies _____ (#) tulips _____ (#) hyacinths

Total plants _____ at \$13.00 each

Total Cost _____

Payment must be received in the church office by March 21.

_____ In memory of _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ I will take the flowers home with me.

