Central Presbyterian Church

A Fresh Outlook on Faith

THE VOICE

February 2017 VOLUME 69 • ISSUE 2

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CONCERTS & SERVICES

Souper Bowl of Caring
February 5 | 11:30 am

Confirmation
February 5 | 12:30 pm

Ash Wednesday
March 1 | 7 pm

Gospel Brunch
February 19 | 10:30 am

GOSPEL BRUNCH

Coming off of two successful collaborations with People's in the last month—the Martin Luther King service at People's Presbyterian and the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educator's national conference worship service, filled with Presbyterian leadership from across the country—we are looking forward to our next: the Gospel Brunch on February 19, which will take place as our morning worship service at Central. This year's gospel brunch will be a little different than last year's as it will be held in the sanctuary during the 10:30 hour with the 'brunch' portion after in the narthex.

Come hear some new and old spirituals, gospel music, and sung by the combined choirs of People's and Central, soloists, band, and musicians. This would be a great Sunday to invite friends for this special service in continuing the partnership between People's and Central. Hope to see you (and new friends) there!

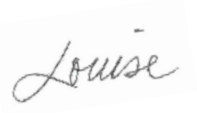
FROM YOUR **PASTOR**

Because Easter arrives in April this year, the entire month of February is the season of the church known as “ordinary” time. The liturgical color is green, and I like to think that’s because ordinary time is when things that have been planted undergo growth. It may be awhile before the green shoots of crocuses and daffodils emerge, but even now there is movement in the cold, hard ground. Similarly, the faith we affirmed by renewing our baptismal vows, the plans we have made as a church, the process of joining God in works of justice, peacemaking and compassion, are undergoing growth. In ways both visible and invisible, God is working in us and through us to bring them to fulfillment.

For everything there is a season. . . . The biblical version includes a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to keep silence and a time to speak. I might update the list to include “a time to talk and a time to listen, a time to get stuff done and a time to binge-watch The West Wing, a time to protest and a time to wait, a time to dare and a time to stay safe, a time to consult the map and a time to blaze a new trail. . . .” What would your list include?

Our use of a time is first and finally a spiritual matter. Join us at Central as we seek to make the most of our time by learning more of what it means to trust all our time to God. My friend (and former General Assembly moderator) Bruce Reyes-Chow offers this prayer to guide us: God, often my spirit is overwhelmed by the options, by my schedule, by the very act of choosing what and when. Help me to know when to rest, when to play, when to stand my ground, and when to walk. Let my time be aligned with yours. Amen.

Yours for this time,



Pastor Louise Westfall

THE **VOICE**

THE VOICE is published monthly. Article submissions are due no later than the second Monday of the month.

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February Worship Schedule

February 5 Communion Pastor Louise preaching on Isaiah 58:1-9 Pastor, Am I a Christian? Youth-sponsored Souper Bowl of Caring lunch follows worship.

February 12 Prayer Shawl dedication Pastor Louise preaching on Deuteronomy 30:11-20 Perceiving the Word that Is Very Near Us

February 19 Gospel Brunch with People's Presbyterian Church We'll worship with lively gospel music of the combined choirs followed by a gospel brunch in the narthex. Pastor Louise preaching on Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-17 Hole-y, Wholly, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

February 26 Pastor Louise preaching on Matthew 17:1-9 To See Jesus Alone

Remember that the labyrinth is available every Wednesday from 11:30 – 1 for walking prayer and meditation.

Central's prayer room is open every Sunday, 8:30 – noon for personal prayer and a quiet reflection space.

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS: THE JESUS CREED

This Lent we will be having six-week home group gatherings to discuss and support one another in using the "Jesus Creed" as a core part of our spiritual formation. This process begins by asking what was spiritual formation in Jesus day and then seeks to apply that concept to our lives today. There is a DVD study that will be shared at each meeting.

Sign up for these groups will be taking place all through the month of February and the groups begin the week of March 5th thru Holy Week. Where there are co-hosts the groups may alternate locations.

Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex on Sunday morning or email Stan@centraldenver.com.

Sunday Morning's 9 AM in the East Classroom rotating leaders

Sundays afternoon 4PM at Edith and Steve Zemanick's 1255 Elm St. co-hosted by Chris & Helen Gibson

Mondays 7PM at Don & Emily Nease's 4982 Trenton St co-hosted by Kent and Freddie Groff

Tuesdays 6pm dinner & 7pm Study at Westfall/Yee's, 9122 Tufts Circle Greenwood Village

Tuesdays 7 PM at Jean Herman's 1777 Larimer # 1410 led by Rev. Ethan Raath

Wednesdays at 6:00-7:00 PM at the church in the East Classroom led by Stan Jewell

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent will begin March 1st with our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm in the sanctuary led by our confirmation youth and mentors. Our service will be inspired by what the youth are learning about worship and the seasons of the church.

"This year, we enter Lent reminded of how important this season truly is. We need Lent. We need Lent because the world feels especially cold—the kind of cold that makes your heart hurt. We need Lent because brokenness has no end in sight, and we know we are part of the problem. We need Lent, because the dust of our mortality feels more like the dust of dirt than the stuff of stars. Lent is not just the season for giving something up. It's an opportunity to lament and look inward. It's an invitation to pause and regroup—to shake off old dust and take new steps." - Sanctified Art

ADULT **EDUCATION**

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM. Adult Ed at Central asks questions, goes deeper, delights in diverse perspectives, pursues truth, honors all people, trusts God. Expect to be challenged, provoked, inspired, amazed and grateful.

In the West Room…

Regional Visions: Presbytery's Long Term Initiatives Work
February 5

The Presbytery of Denver commits many of its resources to emerging and existing congregations across our region, including support of New Worshiping Communities, New Church Developments, racial/ethnic ministry and the New Beginnings Program for churches facing transitions. Join Central's Chris Wineman, chair of the Long Term Initiatives Work Group of the Presbytery, as he shares the breadth and depth of this transformational work in our churches.

Climate Change: what does it mean and how should we respond?
February 12 and 19

Join Adult Education for a two-Sunday class that will promote a discussion on Climate Change: what does it mean and how should we respond? On February 12, Central's Rob Habiger will lead the class to consider the spiritual, social and technical aspects of the climate change debate. On February 19, Montview Ruling Elder Peter Hulac will help us consider our response as individuals, as congregations, and as a national church.

Race Relations and Our Faith
Feb 26

Join Bear Redmon and Central Youth in a discussion of race and our faith based on the book Waking Up White. Listen to new perspectives and join the discussion.

Women's Thursday Bible Study: Who is Jesus?

Who is Jesus? This study explores the question through the lenses of Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Paul, Hebrews, the non-canonical gospels, the Abrahamic Faiths, and contemporary cultural interpretations. It notes that each of us who reads the New Testament is an interpreter of the text, and that how we interpret depends in part on who we are. Join the women of the church from 10 am – 11:30 am on the first Thursday of every month at the home of **Sue Wilcox**. Contact Pastor **Louise Westfall** for more information: louise@centraldenver.com.

THANK YOU CENTRAL!

Thank you Central for your support in the APCE Annual Event!

The APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) Annual Event that took place the last week of January in Denver was a wonderful success due in part to the participation and support of Central Presbyterian! Central graciously hosted the **David LaMotte** concert on January 26, the When Helping Hurts workshop on January 27 and the joint People's and Central choir performed at closing worship on the 28. Central provided volunteers for the registration desk at the hotel, hospitality at the airport, ushers for the concert and a wonderful lunch as well as a panel discussion with our mission partners for the workshop. The closing worship could not have been more inspirational with the choirs rendition of "Freedom Medley "and the gospel "Halleluiah Chorus". It was a powerful moment as over 600 educators, pastors and youth leaders, in addition to the co-moderator of the PC(USA) stood and joined in. On behalf of APCE, I thank you for your support of educators and educational ministries across the United States and Canada.-- Stephanie Fritz

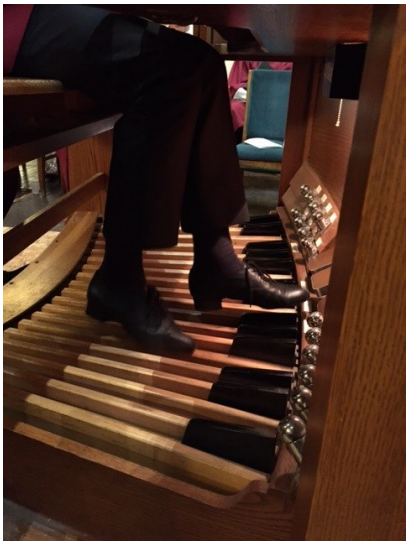
An Ode to Christ Figures All

by Ernie Cubbon

You walk in quiet unassuming ways. Our paths cross in
different moments and ways. You go unrecognized in
the everyday meetings of life. When hurt cries out for
help in ways seen and unseen are heard with the
sensitivity of your eyes, ears and spirit you are there with
the years of study, skill and compassionate living. In
those moments hearts and hopes are filled with
gratitude for your presence and good company. You
undergird our faith in a way that help us to endure all
that heartbreak might bring. In those moments,
together, we know the real presence of Christ. Thanks
be to God for you and your profession of faith in all that
God and your profession of faith in all that God has called
you to be and do.

Ernie & Margaret Cubbon

MUSIC **NOTES**



Coming up in February in Music and arts, the children's choir under the direction of Sarah Eaton will be will be singing in the service on February 12. The following week, we will continue with our exciting and growing collaboration with People's Presbyterian Church, when their choir and congregation join us at Central on February 19 for a gospel brunch. This will take place during our regular service time, and will feature the combined choirs and band singing lots of familiar and new gospel music and spirituals. Please mark your calendars!

And we hope that you're feeling amorous on February 10 at 7:30pm, and will join the Denver Philharmonic for their Valentine's Day themed concert called "Hopeless Romantics" featuring Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony and Brahms's Double Concerto for Violin and Cello. Tickets are available on the Denver Philharmonic website at denverphilharmonic.org. And stay tuned for an early March concert next month when the Colorado Masterworks Chorus with orchestra presents Handel's Israel in Egypt on March 3.

And don't forget to check out the art hanging in the Sturgeon Room Gallery. Starting February 16, the fiber art of Karen Bennet will be displayed in a show entitled "Of Women." The work explores the bond between women throughout history using archetypal images from ancient statues and patterns from prehistoric cultures around the world. Karen become interested in the theme after spending two years deep in the Amazon jungle of with the family of her adopted son, discovering that in spite of cultural differences, the concerns of the women of his biological family were similar to her own.

Of Women

Karen Bennett – Fiber Artist

Of Women is a series of fiber works about the bond between women throughout history using archetypal images from ancient statues and patterns from prehistoric cultures around the world. I become interested in this theme after spending two years deep in the Amazon jungle of with the family of my adopted son. Though there were vast cultural differences, I discovered the cares and concern of his mother and sisters were similar to mine; having resilience in difficult times, sharing joy and sorrow with friends and believing in a hopeful future.

I would be excited to participate in showing at your gallery in February. I will have 8 pieces, all 43 wide x 47 high. I included some information about my concept and titles of pieces in the attachment.

WAKING UP WHITE

Participate with Presbyterians throughout the United States in a "One Read" book selected by the co-moderators of the General Assembly. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston chose this book as a way to continue conversation about racism and privilege, its deadly consequences, and the promise of faith to unite us. Copies of the book, Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving are available in the narthex lobby for the reduced price of $10. People's Church and Central have agreed to discuss the book together and those dates will be announced later. Join with presbytery friends on Saturday, February 11 over lunch at noon at the presbytery office, 1710 South Grant St. The Rev. Ann Christensen will lead the discussion.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Thanks you for your support of the 2016 Christmas Joy Offering!

Our goal was to raise $1,500. But you exceeded that amount with gifts of $2,745. Thank You.

These funds will be divided between emergency assistance for Church workers and their families and racial ethnic school supported by the Presbyterian Church USA

JANUARY CHURCH MOUSE

Even a mouse enjoys a good swim now and then, but I usually reserve those outings to the summertime. So, you can imagine my shock the last week in December when I saw water flowing through the kitchenette, nursery, first floor hallway and even dripping into Cleland. I heard Joe say a hot water valve had failed in the kitchenette. As usual, **Joe** was on top of it as soon as he was notified by the cleaning crew. The nursery parquet flooring seemed to bear most damage but Joe was able to make it useable again and the Property Committee will consider longer term repairs.

METRO CARING
HUNGER STOPS HERE
EST. 1974

MORE THAN JUST A FOOD PANTRY

When we think of metro caring where we donate our food and cash collections each month we tend to think of it as a food pantry. But Metro Caring is so much more. It is Denver's leading hunger-prevention organization on the front lines of need. Metro Caring meets people's immediate need for food while also sustainably addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty. Using a multifaceted approach, Metro Caring is an innovative leader in addressing problems related to hunger, with programming offered in Healthy Foods Access, Nutrition/Gardening Education, and Self-Sufficiency.

For example this fall, Metro Caring launched its inaugural Diabetes and Self-Management program in partnership with the Center for African American Health. Already, two classes have graduated from the six-week course.

When we donate to Metro Caring with food and our offerings of cash we help connect people to an organization that can move people out of the cycle of hunger and on to self sufficiency. It is so much more than just a food pantry.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Souper Bowl of Caring

More than 25 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than $125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

Central partners with Metro Caring, Denver's leading hunger-prevention organization. We will meet in the Sturgeon Room after worship to enjoy soups prepared by our Central youth. Please bring canned food and/or monetary donations to help.

Children and Families

February 6
9 am—Breakfast Club
10:30 am—Communion Sunday worship together

February 12
9 am—Breakfast Club
10:30 am—Bible Story Room and Bible Trek

February 19
9 am—Breakfast Club
10:30 am—Joint People's and Central worship service at Central followed by brunch

February 26
9 am—Breakfast Club
10:30 am—Bible Story Room and Bible Trek

Middler Youth (5th-7th Grade)

Gather at the 9am hour every Sunday this month on the 3rd floor

February 26
Gathering after worship 12-3pm at the church
This month's outing will take place in Cleland Hall and include lunch, worship, and games. This month we will be harnessing our inner Jason Bourne as developing the ability to make the right decision quickly, especially when tough questions come up.

High School Youth (8th—12th Grade)

February 5
Confirmation. We will meet after Souper Bowl of Caring at 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

February 17—19
Rest Fest. This year, we will be joining with Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Rest Fest, a weekend dedicated to resting and reflecting on how rest fits into God's plan for our lives. Rest Fest takes place in Boulder, CO at the Millennium Hotel.

February 26
Join **Bear Redmon** and Central Youth at 9 am in the East classroom for a discussion of race and our faith based on the book *Waking Up White*. Listen to new perspectives and join the discussion.

CONGREGATIONAL **CORNER**

Communion

Communion will be served on **February 5.** Please remember canned goods or a monetary gift in support of hungry families served by Metro Caring.

OPPORTUNITIES TO **CONNECT**

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, will meet Feb. 23 at 7 pm at the home of **Joyce Coville**, 17 Polo Field Lane, Denver. **Leslie Williams** and **Jean Hart** are co-hosts. RSVPs to Joyce at 303.871.8991 or fjcoville@msn.com. We build friendships through fellowship, so please join us!

Central Men are invited to meet for pizza and fellowship on Thursday, February 23, in the Capitol Hill Tavern at 6:30 p.m. "CHT" is located at 1225 N. Logan St., with free parking in the fenced lot accessed off of East 12th Avenue between Grant and Logan Sts. The theme for after dinner conversation is "running the race" -- what we've learned from sports as metaphors for our lives. Host **Robert Rynerson** will collect $10 per person for the food, service and private room. Beverages will be on individual tabs. Please contact Rob with questions or for reservations at 720.570.0647, rw.rynerson@att.net.

MAGIC APPALACHIAN MARKERS

Magic Appalachian

Trail markers

lead me around bends

that mend the crooked paths

I have taken.

Through my summer

hazes, spring bursts, fall

blazes: an Appalachian

Spring with Barber's strings,

Camus' *Fall*,

my falling failing leads me

to new forks in the trail:

I must decide.

Then is when

I've learned to hide

like Punxatawny Phil*

until I'm still enough

to hear the cricket,

or see this fragile web

that holds me,

heals me

all winter

longing.

—Kent Ira Groff © Permission to use; cite the source.

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