



The Messenger

"Showing Christ's Love and Sharing His Story"

May 2012

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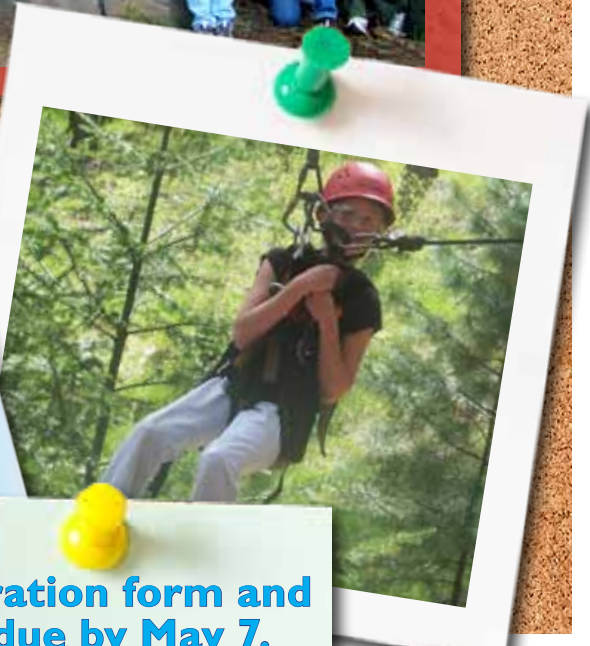
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May 25-28
Camp Ghormley

2012 FAMILY CAMP

Everyone is invited to join us at Central's annual Family Camp getaway at Ghormley Meadows near White Pass. Sign-ups have started! Don't miss the giant swing, leap of faith, campfires, zipline, canoeing, archery, family games, wonderful meals (no cooking for us) and much, much more! Accommodations include heated cabins. Volunteers are needed to help lead activities. If interested, please call Julie McDonald at 943-1143, ext. 117.



Registration form and fees due by May 7.

REVERSING the TREND LINES!

By Pastor
David Parker

In his recent article “The Exchange: Three Important Church Trends,” Ed Stetzer of Lifeway Resources dropped the proverbial bomb! The “elephant-in-the-room” news that must be spoken, even though it is alarming: **The American church has at least three “D’s” on its report card!** (Ouch!)

If Jesus Christ “IS RISEN,” then one might ask why does it appear that much of the church is “asleep?” These words are not meant to be pejorative, alarmist, condemning, accusatory or blaming. We all feel badly about our current reality. And no. “Body count” is not the only news of the day! God is doing wonderful things in our midst. **But we must pay attention to these three trends and ask ourselves, how are they appearing here at Central and how can we work together (as an entire church family) to address them?**

TREND #1 DECLINE

Many doomsayers have predicted the coming “European-styled” death of the American Church. The truth is that, yes, there is decline among self-identified Christians in America. According to the latest American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS), the number of self-professing Christians is down 11 percent over two decades. It has been declining in influence and increasingly being marginalized in our culture.

Positive Response INCLINE

In order to reverse that trend, **we must each make an individual and corporate commitment to renew our vision and passion for God's mission in our churches for reaching new people!** Lifestyles and standards of living, comfort, “our way” and peace-of-mind are not why we exist. As Rick Warren says, “It's not about me!”

TREND #2 DROPOUTS

Like the decline trend for the larger church, the dropout trend in local churches is both daunting and disturbing. Young adults have been dropping out of the church at an alarming rate. Church attendance nationally for all Christians is 1.7 weeks per month. LifeWay Research data estimates the dropout number at 70% for those between ages 18-22. After 22, half of those who have left, stay gone, but the other half will eventually return!

Positive Response RE-UPS

In the military, this slang term speaks of those who “re-enlist!” They come back in and imbed in the company of their squadron. **Helping to discover, connect with and “re-enlist” church dropouts is EVERYONE'S business.** Our family will not have a strong,

healthy outreach ministry if we are not strong on the inside in areas of caring and follow-through with members and attendees. Who can you call, reach out to and invite — again this week?

TREND #3 DISCIPLESHIP DETERIORATION

According to many church experts, we are not seeing robust disciple-making taking place in Christians' lives. In today's society, we are more likely to find evangelical Christians affirming that there is “more than one way to get to heaven” than 15 or 20 years ago. This dilutes passion for evangelism and faith sharing. Pastors and scholars call that problem “perpetual spiritual infancy,” and it is contagious and spreading.

Positive Response DISCIPLINED DEVOTION

To address the trend, **we must all get serious about owning our faith, taking personal responsibility for knowing, growing and going strong in the Lord.** Our church's ministries must be teaching believers who know they are in Christ and how they are to live that out in radical ways (Radical is not fanatical!).

We must not deny or ignore the hard times our (and other churches) are having in breaking through to vital growth and ministry. Only with God's grace (and determined leadership) can we address these trends in biblically responsive ways that will help us turn our ship and engage our future in hope!

Together, all things are possible!

Pastor David

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Ciarlo Life Group *By Denise Ciarlo*

Why are Life Groups important to you?



From left to right, Helen Louise Chitty, Kris Colvin, Clea Conner, and Denise Ciarlo.

God never intended for us to live our lives alone. He's given us the gift of other people to walk through the ups and downs of life with us. We can find these people in our small groups.

Life groups are important because they truly connect us to Central. If you miss a worship service or two, no one may even notice. But, if you miss a Life Group, you will truly be missed. Our Life Groups offer "relational connection" at its finest!

Life groups also offer us the greatest opportunity for spiritual growth. Spiritual growth happens best when we are studying, discussing and living out biblical directives with like-minded believers who can point out the rough edges of our lives that we need to hand over to the Lord.

What made you decide to become a Life Group Leader?

I was teaching a class on "Listening to the Holy Spirit", using a discussion and conversational approach to teaching.

Our group wanted to continue this approach to studying Scripture. Members commented that it was the first time they felt confident about sharing in a small group.

How would you describe your group?

Our Life Group is a wonderful group of women who have learned to listen to one another, ask advice of one another and want to spend time together outside of our Life Group.

Meeting Marilyn

Marilyn Willems is Central's new Membership/Finance Administrative Assistant.



What led you to apply for an administrative assistant position at Central? And what are you looking forward to?

I was praying nearly all the month of January for God to help me to decide what I needed to do. After many questions of Him, He said, "Get a job!" I'm excited because He answered my prayer so quickly! I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to work in a Christian environment and go to bed at night with a sense of a day well spent.

What roles have you played at Central since you've been at the church, and what have you learned by getting involved?

I have been singing in the Chancel Choir since I first walked in these doors. I have served on the Finance Committee, volunteered as receptionist, and helped in the Finance Department. I am a Stephen Minister, and whatever else I am asked to do.

What motivates you?

People and serving

What super-charges your personal walk with the Lord?

The joy He brings me and the ability to show Christ alive in me, the ability of letting people see the lighter-side of life!

What pumps you up about Central Church lately?

The resolutions of our recent crisis, praying that we have made a turn-around in the negative responses

to our leaders and can return to focusing on Praying, Caring, Serving, and Sharing!

MARTHA'S CUPBOARD:

TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP

By Alan Barnett

God is good! Leaders are coming forward to take on needed responsibilities. The future of Martha's Cupboard is going to be in very capable hands. With the leadership and team members, we feel it will continue to expand and be an even more effective outreach into our community. Please continue to pray for this ministry. If you want to get involved please call Alan or Dee Barnett (628-0410) or contact Central Church office. They will connect you with one of the team leaders.

UPDATE

MINISTRY AREAS WHICH STILL NEED TO BE FILLED

- ◆ Order pickup and unloading – requires strong backs!
- ◆ Grant writing – finding available resources of funding
- ◆ Community Awareness
- ◆ Special Focus Projects
- ◆ Messenger Articles, Bulletin notices, coordinate special focus events (work with media team, Editor, etc.)

KIDS CONNECTION

By Julie McDonald

Tri-Cities Pregnancy Network Baby Bottle Fundraiser

From Mother's Day to Father's Day, the Children's Ministry will be filling baby bottles with money to support the Tri-Cities Pregnancy Network. We will be sending children home with baby bottles and will also be filling them during Kids Connection with their offering money.

The Tri-Cities Pregnancy Network provides practical, emotional and spiritual support to equip women and men to choose life for their babies and healthier lifestyles for themselves. All of their services are free and confidential.

Since 1957, thousands of kids have come to Camp Spalding for classic, summer camp fun – boating and swimming on the lake, craft projects, hilarious

skits, one-of-a-kind camp games, new friends and lasting memories. Camp Spalding's outstanding summer programs allow campers to experience Jesus' promise to His followers: "I have come to give you life, and life more abundantly." John 10:10.

For several years, Central Church has sent kids to this camp and they have strengthened their relationship with Christ and had a lot of fun. For more information, please visit campspalding.org.

Scholarships from Central are available upon request. Please see Julie McDonald or Matt Williams for more camp information.

Camp Spalding dates (based on grades entering in the fall):

Junior I, grades 5-6 Jr. High I, grades 7-8 Sr. High I, grades 9-12
June 24-30 July 8-14 July 1-7

Junior II, grades 5-6 Jr. High II, grades 7-8 Sr. High II, grades 9-12
July 22-28 August 5-11 July 29-August 4

Other camps that we recommend include:

Camp Ghormley – ghormleymeadow.org
Twinlow and Lazy F - pnwumc.org/camping



Memories from 2011 Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Since they receive no government funding, they rely solely on the generous support of individuals, businesses, and churches in our community to continue reaching those in need.

Mark your calendars!

4TH GRADE GRADUATION PARTY

Sunday, June 10, 2:30-4:00 p.m.
at Mid-Columbia Gymnastics Academy

All 4th graders are invited to come and celebrate their graduation from the Children's Ministry and their entrance into a new journey with Planet 56.

CHILDREN'S SPORTS CAMP
August 6-10 during the evenings

MESSY GAME NIGHT
August 10

Help us celebrate the end of our children's Sports Camp with Messy Game Night.

Thank You!

We love our volunteers. Thank you, to all of the Children's Ministry volunteers who love, protect, teach and lead Central's Children. The seeds that you plant and the love that you show are helping to fulfill God's purpose for them through a relationship with Jesus. We love you and thank God for you.

*Love, Julie McDonald and
Caroline Cloud*



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THE VISION FOR THE emmaus —counseling center

CONTINUES AND EXPANDS

By Mike Patterson, Executive Director

There is a place for hurting people to come and receive Christ-centered clinical guidance to help repair broken relationships and uplift a downcast spirit. There is a place where theology and psychology are integrated and woven together to bring personal wellness and spiritual wholeness for people in need. There is a place where Christian counseling is a ministry based on Biblical values for individuals, families, and local churches. That place is *The Emmaus Center*.

After several years of research and planning, and seeking God's will through prayer, *The Emmaus Center Christian Counseling Ministry* was organized and opened its doors to the community in September 2004. Since that date, *The Emmaus Center*

has grown from a staff of 2 to a staff of 13 and the demand for Christian counseling services continues to grow.

In 2008, Central Church graciously responded to the center's need for more space. A remodeling project, to add four more rooms was completed. The highlight of the new space is a dedicated child therapy room, equipped with the latest in play therapy and art therapy equipment.

While the Central Church location continues to serve as the main office of *The Emmaus Center*, additional sites have been added as well. *The Emmaus Center* now has offices in Bethel Church, Cathedral of Joy, Faith Assembly and Richland Baptist Church.

Over the first six years of its existence, *The Emmaus Center* has

provided \$428,882 of reduced-fee services to our community. The continued generosity of God's people will continue to make this possible. Many supporters of *The Emmaus Center* give monthly through designations in their Central Church giving. Others provide one-time gifts. Either way, this allows the healing ministry of Christ to be offered without regard to the client's ability to pay.

Thank you for serving with us!

GOSPEL REVOLUTION

Recovering the Power of Christianity

J D GREAR

YOUTH NEWS

By Matt Williams

A Book Report by Matt Williams (this is not a joke...)

I am currently reading "Gospel" by Pastor J D Grear. He is the lead pastor at Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. I have only read a little over half of this book, but it is very good.

The overall theme is for all of us Christians to move beyond knowing the Gospel story and having "its truth captivate your soul."

I want to share a few excerpts that spoke to my soul and articulate my visions and desires for myself and the youth of this church.

◆ "If you are not where you should be spiritually, the answer is not simply to get busier for Jesus. It is not just to get more radical in your devotion to God. It's not

only to seek greater spiritual gifts or even to learn more about the Bible. It is to make your home in God's love given to you as a gift in Christ."

◆ "God is after an obedience that is filled with desire."

◆ "True worship is obedience to God for no other reason than that you delight in God. There is a fundamental difference in serving God to get something from Him and serving God to get more of Him."

These nuggets are only in the first 30 pages. I have two other copies in my office, and I encourage you to come by and borrow them. It is a quick, easy read, even for ME!! I truly feel that everybody needs to read it.



LIBRARY LOOKOUT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

More updates are in the works for our library. We will be moving to an electronic card catalog that will make it much easier for you to find that perfect read. To do this, we will need a team to enter data into the new system. We can also use some extra hands to shelve and tidy things during the week. If you can spare an hour or two a week, please contact Heather Carpenter at 912-977-6809 or acornrose@yahoo.com.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

We will begin planning for summer activities soon. If you have any suggestions, please leave them in the basket on the library desk.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Library Questionnaire. There were great suggestions, and you will see the changes soon.

CENTRAL CHURCH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Steve Anderson	Mary Gustavson	Doris Norman
Diane Aungst	Mary Lee Hall	Abel Orozco
Karley Bartlett	Micah-Ray Harrison	Zaunette Orozco
Jenny Bixler	Carl Higby	Joellen Peters
Ron Brown	Joanne Johnson	D'Lana Roohr
Billie Jean Bryant	Kurt Johnson	Jack Selby
Chuck Chandler	Cathie Jones	Arlene Shannon
Marlene Cleveland	Ron Knight	Pat Widhalm
Dale Denham	Laura Landon	Wanda Wise
Pam Dreher	Marguerite Love	Ken Wright
Earl Flagor	Glennis Lyon	Peggy Wright
Carl Gallion	Charles Marsh	Doris Wurz
Bob Garvie	Retha Mettler	

RECENT LOSS

Heather Carpenter, loss of grandfather
Leonard and Karen Dowd, loss of niece
Dick and Carla Dowd, loss of niece

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

March 25	388	April 8	880
April 1	478	April 15	441

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Rummage Sale

It's almost time for our spring rummage sale! It's happening on Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2.

- ✓ **1** We need volunteers to help all week leading up to the sale. We work hard but we have a lot of fun!
- ✓ **2** We also need your donations of saleable items. We can take almost anything except tires, old computers, water beds and most large appliances. Please only bring clothing that has been freshly laundered.
- ✓ **3** We have storage so you can bring your donations to the church anytime. Please call with questions or before bringing any large items.
- ✓ **4** We will be doing set up on Monday through Thursday, May 28 - May 31, and would love to have you join us!
- ✓ **5** If you are able to help with set up or during the sale, please contact Lori Stevens at 943-1143, ext. 116.

The proceeds will go to the administrative fund and youth ministries.

WisdomHeirs

WisdomHeirs is for the "Young at Heart" who enjoy fun, fellowship, entertainment, great food and educational opportunities. Bring your spouse or a friend for a great time of Christian fellowship.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 14, at 11:30 a.m. For our May program, Bonnie Rogers will share about the Cosa Rica Mission that her daughter serves with.

Contact Gary Nirk at 544-8030 for information.



Pastor's Link & Lunch

New to Central? Join us for lunch on Sunday, May 20 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 300.

This is a great time to meet and get to know our pastors. Find out what Central is all about and how to get connected.

Children welcome. Please let us know you are coming by calling Pati at 943-1143, ext 119 or e-mail at patib@cupchurch.org.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Dean Paxton

STRATEGIC PLANNING

By Paul Casey

The strategic planning team of Central Church has a complete team made up of:

Mark Taylor	Jeff Elmer
Michele Perry	Mark Byrnes
Gale Lyon	Ray Robinson
Michael Smith	Andy Hesser
Mike/Lillian Joos	Paul Casey, co-chair
Carrie Swafford	

Please pray for this team as they wrestle with how to focus the church on the main things that will lead to growth, both spiritually and in more people coming to the church to hear the gospel! They have been commissioned by the Executive Council and will brainstorm, then implement approved recommendations, and communicate regularly to the church body.

The first meeting was to get the current reality: Central's mission/vision/values/goals/attendance patterns/past planning attempts/wins/struggles, and Pastor David's vision.

Through the first three months of 2012, actual giving to the operating fund (\$322,849) was \$19,151 below the budgeted amount of \$342,000. If this giving trend continues into the second quarter of 2012 (April-June), then spending will need to be reduced to compensate for the level of giving.

Through the first three months of 2012, the actual expenses (\$369,331) are \$19,982 below the budgeted total of \$389,313.

Overall, actual expenses have exceeded actual giving by \$46,482 in the first three months of the year and have reduced the operating reserve to \$71,806.

Giving Summary for March 2012

OPERATING FUND	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Mar. Giving to Operating	\$111,000	\$101,262
Mar. Operating Expenses	\$124,930	\$131,725
Expenses Exceeded Giving by		\$ 30,463
JANUARY - MARCH 2012	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Total Giving to Operating	\$342,000	\$322,849
Total Operating Expenses	\$389,313	\$369,331

Year to-date actual expenses exceed actual giving by \$46,482

The OPERATING RESERVE is now at \$71,806.

Faith Promise Summary

Mar. Faith Promise Giving	\$ 6,587
Total Faith Promise Giving	\$ 6,587*

*Faith Promise Year is March 2012–February 2013



STAFF PARISH RELATIONS (SPR)

The SPR is the "Human Relations Department" committee of our church governance structure. They are answerable to the Executive Council and consist of 9 elected lay officers in classes of three. They develop and recommend staff policies and maintain guidelines and procedures within their area of responsibility.

As spiritual leaders among the congregation, one of the most important roles these individuals fill is to act as liaison between the congregation and staff. They are to be the "eyes and ears" among the congregation, bring feedback and concerns to staff and work to clarify misinformation. They serve as advocates among the congregation to explain the roles of staff, celebrate and promote their ministry, and enhance clear communication with the broader church family.

SPR is tasked with developing, maintaining and overseeing the administration of the Employee Handbook, which outlines personnel policies and procedures. They are responsible for approving job descriptions for all pastors and staff, assuring that regular staff evaluations occur, supporting continuing education and training for staff, and modifying benefits as appropriate (e.g. insurance benefits and salaries). This group is responsible for oversight of all hiring, disciplinary, and termination decisions. When the need arises, they consult with the District Superintendent to identify Pastors for appointment to this church. The current chairperson of our SPR is Eric Gettis. Please keep this team in your prayers!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

By Andy Hesser

Last month I reported that the church had problems with HVAC systems in the Fellowship Hall, kitchen, Gathering Place, and the administration wing. The Trustees have authorized replacement of the failed systems. We will replace the latter two first, followed by the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. We've hired an engineering firm to take a look at the Fellowship Hall/kitchen structure to see if a single system can be supported properly. We expect to have all four HVAC systems replaced by the end of May.

As you may know, the Capital Campaign is focusing on the upgrade of the sanctuary later this year. The Trustees will lead this overall project, which will consider remodeling the front of the sanctuary; possibly moving the pulpit; possibly installing a baptistry; replacing tiles, carpets and (possibly) pews; and upgrading the sound system. We'll also look at upgrading the décor of the chapel.

The Trustees are taking a very measured approach to this project and will seek input from all church stakeholders. If you would like to help on this project, please contact me, Bill Ross, or Pati at the church office.

Thank you, again, for your support of the capital campaign and the care of our wonderful facility.

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Mark Virkler

Specializing in helping people step into a deeper, more personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, Dr. Mark Virkler will be with us on Sunday, May 6 for an amazing presentation that will revolutionize the way you hear God's voice, understand His will and act upon His Word. He will be speaking on "The 4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice." You can learn more about him at www.cwgministries.org.



YOUTH SUNDAY

Central Church SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL/BLENDED
SERVICE
9:00 a.m.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
10:15 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY
SERVICE
11:00 a.m.

CHILDREN
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

YOUTH
Class, 9:22 a.m.
Church Service, 11:00 a.m.

Our Vision
Everyone Prays
Everyone Cares
Everyone Serves
Everyone Shares

May 20 is this year's Youth Sunday! The youth are up front covering every aspect of both services that day. The mid-high kids run the 9:00 a.m. service. The high school kids have the 11:00 a.m. service. Seniors get a gift, and some of them will be delivering the sermon. The youth praise band will be providing the praise music at both services. Please come and see these awesome youth!

