



The e-Weekly

A publication of Central Presbyterian Church • Atlanta, Georgia • PC(USA)

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February 21, 2009
201 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
www.cpcatlanta.org

February 22, 2009

worship

Transfiguration of the Lord

Scripture

2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Sermon

Now Hear This!
Gary Charles preaching

Hymns

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Out of Deep, Unordered Waters

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Music

O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair
by Robert Scholtz
Chancel Choir

This Glimpse of Glory
by David Ashley White
Chancel Choir

Be Thou My Vision
by Hal H. Hopson
Genesis Handbell Choir

fellowship

Sunday Lunch Menu

Baked Catfish
Macaroni & Cheese
Sautéed Yellow Squash & Zucchini
Coleslaw
Fresh Baked Cookies

centraltopics

In Service of Life

Caroline Kelly, Associate Pastor

This year's Winter Studies class offered us opportunities to reflect together about the unique experiences of belonging to a faith community that daily encounters folks with desperate needs. Our conversations included a number of guests of the Outreach and Advocacy Center and Central Night Shelter. During the four-week class, we explored biblical and theological concepts that inform our engagement with persons who are homeless and that support and challenge us in those encounters.

We talked about concepts like hospitality, community and being made in God's image. We heard from folks whose first-hand experiences with homelessness and homeless people have shaped their understanding of God and God's desire for us to relate to one another. In our conversations, we heard these relationships described using language that challenged some fundamental assumptions about how we see each other and how we relate to each other.

Rather than "helping," we speak of "serving" people who are experiencing homelessness. One writer puts it this way:

Serving is different from helping. Helping is based on inequality; it is not a relationship between equals. When you help you use your own strength to help those of lesser strength.... People feel this inequality. When we help we may inadvertently take away from people more than we could ever give them; we may diminish their self-esteem, their sense of worth, integrity and wholeness.... But we don't serve with our strength, we serve with ourselves. We draw from all our experiences. Our limitations serve, our wounds serve, even our darkness can serve.... We serve life not because it is broken, but because it is holy.

Service rests on the basic premise that the nature of life is sacred, that life is a holy mystery which has an unknown purpose.... Fundamentally, helping, fixing, and service are ways of seeing life. When you help you see life as weak, when you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole (Rachel Naomi Remen, "In the Service of Life" in Noetic Sciences Review, Spring 1996).

Envisioning relationships with those who live in shelters and on the street is one arena in which this kind of understanding is helpful because it requires us to see others not as things to fix or problems to solve but as children of God who have gifts, as well as limitations.

My hope is that we carry that understanding of relationship with us, whether we are visiting someone in the hospital, teaching Sunday school, rebuilding homes in New Orleans or teaching residents of Merida, Mexico about the importance of clean water for health and hygiene.

It is impossible to divorce ourselves entirely from helping or fixing in any setting because it comes so naturally, but a life of service can transform not only those whom we serve but ourselves. Fixing a problem is satisfying, but serving can bring us wholeness through encounters with a God who comes to us in the most unexpected and transformative ways.

May it be so for us all.



Ash Wednesday Worship Services

February 25, 2009

12:15 p.m. in Rand Chapel

Catherine Neelly, preaching
Imposition of Ashes and
Communion

7:00 p.m. at Trinity United
Methodist Church

Catherine Neelly, preaching

The evening worship service will be a joint service with Trinity and Central and will include Imposition of Ashes and Communion along with the combined Chancel Choirs from Central and Trinity. Parking will be available at our underground parking garage or at the parking garage adjacent to Trinity UMC.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten season. Come and worship with us!

LE NT ...

...is 40 days before Easter (less Sundays when we celebrate our risen Lord).

...parallels the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry.

...is a chance to take on new spiritual disciplines.

...is a time for spiritual growth, renewal, reflection.

...is a time for penitence and confession.

...is a time of nurturing the spirit.

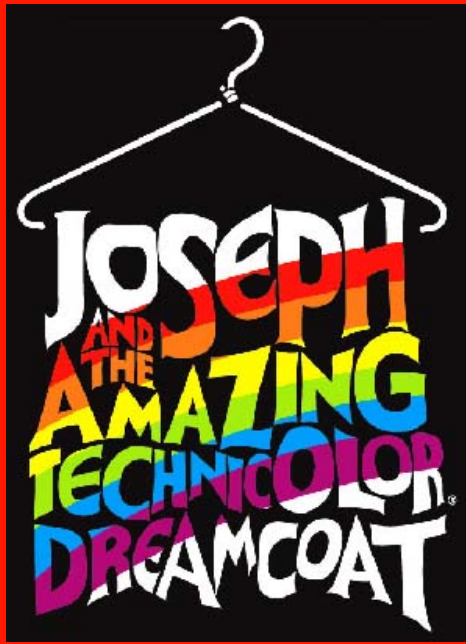
...is a time of contemplation.

...is a time of prayer and preparation for Easter and celebrating our risen Lord.

...is a Sabbath time – a time of rest and worship and time “away”.

It is not in our nature to sit and listen to God. Of all the seasons of the church year, this IS the time to do just that.

Watch this page in upcoming issues for ways in which you may observe the Lenten season.



Lyrics by Tim Rice

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

February 27 & 28 at 8 pm

March 1 at 2 p.m.

On Sunday childcare will be available for children 4 years and younger.

Featuring

Central Presbyterian Youth

For information call
404-601-3122

Admission is free:
(a love offering will be taken)

This Central Presbyterian Youth Amateur Production is presented through exclusive arrangement with R&H Theatricals and the Really Useful Group Unl im ited.
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Adult Classes

Spring Term, February 1 – May 17

- **Who (or What) Comes After the God of Metaphysics?**
John Huss, Convener. Issues in Theology Class, Room G-1, Oglesby
- **The New Christian Community and its Witness**
Brenda Spruell, Convener
Brotherhood/Study Class, Parlor, off Tull Hall

Early Spring, February 1 – March 15

- **Forgiveness: Key to the Creative Life: Its Power and Its Practice: Lessons from Brain Studies, Scripture and Experience**
Kelly Bray, Convener. Faith and Family Class, The Atrium, Ground floor Oglesby
- **Forming "Fearers of the LORD": A Study of Proverbs**
Christine Roy Yoder, Leader; Ed Carwile, Convener
Sojourners Class, Room G-10, Oglesby
- **God in the Silence: Stories of Comfort for Hard Times**
Jean Ellen Jones, Convener.
Keystone Class, Room G-4, Oglesby

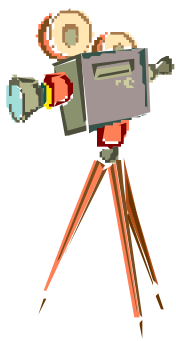
Mark Your Calendars



RESCHEDULED

April 17 & 18

More details soon!



Youth Mission Trip to DC watch what happened!

Thank you for your prayers and support surrounding the youth mission trip to Washington, DC last month. During lunch on Sunday, February 22, a movie with pictures from that trip will be shown in Tull Hall. Please join us!

Global Mission Trip to New Orleans

The Global Mission Committee is taking a mission trip to New Orleans. The dates are Saturday, March 7 - Friday, March 13. Contact Catherine Neelly to learn more about the trip.



Bookworms Deconstruct Oscar Wao's "Wondrous" story at February Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. the Bookworms will convene at Mary Caroline Lindsay's Colony Square condo to discuss "The Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz. Vicki Collier is the reviewer of this wacky tale that won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction this year. One reviewer describes the book this way: "... *Oscar Wao* bridges several generations and distinct cultures with exhilarating doses of Caribbean history and old-fashioned pulse-pounding drama. Politics, corruption, romance, fantasy, faith, despair...the novel contains multitudes." Everyone is invited. Find other Bookworms titles and schedule at <http://cpcatlanta.org/community/bookworms.html>.



Trip to Merida, Mexico

Have you ever wondered about the life and ministry of the Christian church in other cultures?

If so, please consider joining Beth Johnson and Vicki Hertzberg on a trip to Merida, Mexico.

The trip will be from Saturday June 13 to Sunday June 21. Accommodations will be in the Hotel Del Gobernador in downtown Merida. We will learn about the many facets of Mexican culture and about the

context of Christianity in this culture, in particular about the Presbyterian Church in Mexico. We will visit the Living Waters for the World installation that Central helped to build at Hogar Mana and we will also visit several evenings in Emiliano Zapata Sur, where Central's mission partner, Victor Chan, leads a ministry of community development.

Please join Beth and Vicki on Sunday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m. in the atrium to learn more about the trip. We promise to finish in time to give all who wish time to get to the matinee of the youth musical. If you are interested in can't attend this session, please contact Beth or Vicki.

Central Supports Missionaries

Central Presbyterian Church supports missionaries all over the world. The last weekend in March one of our missionaries will be with us. Tricia Lloyd-Sidle serves as the PCUSA's Regional Liaison for the Caribbean, with special attention to Cuba and the Caribbean-North American Council for Mission. If you are interested in meeting Tricia and talking with her please contact either: Catherine Neelly, Ellen Logan, Kimberly Amos, or Jennell Charles. We are working on her schedule and hope to find a variety of ways to introduce her to the congregation.

In addition to Tricia our congregation supports missionaries in Honduras and on the Mexico border. We are also supporting three PCUSA Young Adult Volunteers. The Young Adult Volunteers are serving for one year. They maintain internet blogs. Here are their addresses if you are interested in reading:

Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather are in Kenya. Their blog address is:

<http://nancyandshelvis.com/>

Alex Cornell is in Peru. His blog address is: <http://alexcornell.blogspot.com/>

In the coming months the Global Mission committee hopes to continue to introduce you to our mission co-workers.



3rd Grade Student Answers Call to Service

Third grade student Tim, friend of Centralite Harry Ferguson, has answered President Obama's Call to Service by quenching the thirst of Atlanta's homeless community. He has set a goal to collect 500 sport water bottles and fill them with socks, face cloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and soap, along with a bottle of fresh drinking water. The gift-filled water bottles can be refilled anywhere.

You may contribute by donating water bottles in the hallway outside the administrative offices. To view Tim's progress on MySpace: www.myspace.com/timspledge or email timspledge@yahoo.com

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

(updated February 17)

Members

Receiving Hospice Care: Ernest Arnold

Hospital: Marshall Neil, Henry Hill

Ill or Recovering from Illness or Surgery: Glen Cornell, Caye Oglesby, Nancy Wilkes, and Jerry Veldhuis

Home-bound: Betty Starnes

Family and Friends

Ann Brown, Becca and Karen Brown's mother; **Murphy Davis**; **Gabrella Gaines**, Claudette Gallman's mother; **Earl Gribble**, Kristi Wooten's grandfather; **Martha Haythorn**, Mary Stoops and Trace Haythorn's daughter; **June Holman**, Barb Palmer's mother; **Eleanor Jones**, Diane Terry's sister; **Thad Kelly**, Caroline Kelly and Mary Sidney Harbert's father; **Abby Lewis**, Grits Skinner's friend; **Joan Lilley**, Robin Costa's mother; **Tamara Lopata**; **Bobby Meadows**, Esther Meadows' brother; **Elysa Montgomery**, Margaret & Howard Montgomery's daughter-in-law; **Susan O'Farrell**, sister of Shirley Davis; **Lati Perez**, Maureen Thompson Hunt's niece; **Eugenia Phillips**, Ellen Phillips' mother; **Frank Prebble**, Paul Prebble's father; **Bill Skinner**, Brittain Skinner's father; and **Heath Tuttle**, Carrie and Chris Tuttle's infant son

Serving in the Military

Robert Coker, friend of Emily and Jeff Hilimire; **Bryan Gerhardt**, friend of Ellen and Stephen Smith; **Tom Kelly**, friend of Bill Wilson; **Daniel & Renée Kobler**, grandson and grand-daughter-in-law of Jinnie McCord; **Blake Leverett**, grandson of Frank and Sally Brown; **Erik Olson**, son of Chuck & Ann Veldhuis Olson and grandson of Jerry & Alice Veldhuis; **Connor Riley**, friend of Michael Richards; **Chaplain Jeff Ross**, friend of Central; and **Robert Starnes**, grandson of Betty Starnes.

The congregation extends our deepest sympathy to **Tricia Berrett** in the death of her father, James Burrus, on February 5, in Florida.



Cancer Ministry Gathering

March 1, 2009

5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Location: Parlor

Discussion will be:

Living In Faith: How Family & Friends Best Respond

Each survivor is encouraged to bring a spouse, partner or family member.

Garage parking available

Questions: Call Ann Tumage or Rod Hunter

ALL ARE WELCOME



Meet, Greet &



Welcome Our New Members!

Wende Ballew and **Erin Gerber** joined Central by Reaffirmation of Faith. Their parish is Inman Park/Druid Hills.

Cindy and **John Tarrant**— **Cindy** joined Central by Letter of Transfer from Central UCC, in Atlanta, and **John** is a member of the Cherokee Presbytery. Their parish is Decatur WN/Grant Park.



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404-659-0274 - www.cpcatlanta.org

Central Presbyterian Church is a community of disciples of Jesus Christ who come together in central Atlanta to worship, serve, and be nurtured by God. We come as to a wellspring, bringing our thirst and emptiness, only to discover that our cup is filled by the living Word Who sends us to be with those in need, and to call forth God's justice in a chaotic world. We live out the ongoing story of "The Church that Stayed" joining generations of Central members and others who share this vision to proclaim the Gospel.