

# The TORCH

January 11, 2010



## Central Church of Christ

WHERE WE...

 LOVE

 GROW

 SERVE

 GO

2001 E. Main St.  
Streator, IL 61364  
(815) 673-1581

website:  
[christiscentral.com](http://christiscentral.com)

Emergency Phone:  
257-1582

### Staff

Charles Cline, Senior Minister  
Butch Ringwald, Discipleship  
Evelyn Taylor, Children  
Chad Kennedy, Youth  
Rick Jepsen, Worship  
Bill Coats, Exec. Minister  
Debby Evans, Secretary  
Jessica Pastirik, Secretary

### Sunday Worship

1st Worship: 7:30 a.m.  
2nd Worship & Bible classes:  
9 a.m.  
3rd Worship & Bible classes:  
10:30 a.m.  
Student Ministries (6th-12th)  
6:00 p.m.

## Worship Minister Search progressing

The Worship Minister Search Team has been working hard to find the right person to become Central's full-time Worship Minister to replace Rick Jepsen who is our current Worship Minister. Rick will leave the position when we fill it, but is not leaving Central and will continue to be an active member of the Worship Team.

The Search Team has researched, interviewed references, viewed worship videos of and conducted telephone interviews with a candidate. The Search Team and the Elders/Ministers will be meeting personally and interviewing this candidate in the next couple of weeks. If all goes well, we will have him meet and work with the Worship Team in practice and conduct Sunday morning worship services in the near future.

The Search Team also has other good candidates who are still under consideration. Presently our focus is on the one individual.

Please be praying for all the men and women who have applied for this position. We pray God will guide us to the right person for Central and others will find the place where God wants them to be.

**Minister Search Team**



## Rodney Kreier to take a Sabbatical

Rodney Kreier (one of our Elders) will be taking a Sabbatical this year. This means he will be taking time away from his normal Elder duties to focus on some specific things he feels he is being called to do. In the future you will be made aware of those things he is doing to bring people to Christ, but at the present time please be praying for Rodney as he follows his calling.

## Special Thanks to Harry Camp

A special thanks to Harry Camp who has been a deacon at Central for many years. Harry chose not to continue as a deacon beginning this year due to health concerns. He will continue to serve on the Missions Ministry. We certainly appreciate all his dedication and hard work through the years and look forward to his continued support at Central Church of Christ.

## Night of fun planned on January 22

There will be a *Euchre Tournament* at Central Church of Christ on *Friday, January 22*, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up yourself, a friend, or a team in the foyer.

Childcare will be provided with advance notice only. Please call the church office (815) 673-1581 by Wednesday, January 20 at noon.

Please bring a snack or dessert for our guests. Popcorn, lemonade and coffee will be provided by Central's Outreach Ministry.

# Charles' Corner

Charles Cline



**I**t's amazing to think that 2009 is gone and we have begun a new year and a new decade. Hebrews 11:6 says, ***"Without faith it is impossible to please God."***

I think our congregation has stepped out in faith in many ways as we strive to please God. I want to share with you some of the experiences in which we have lived out our faith in 2009 and then want to share with you some of the opportunities we have to live our faith in 2010.

Thirty-six new members joined our fellowship in 2009, 29 were through baptism and seven were through transfer from other congregations. We have been blessed with eight babies this last year.

Our Junior Worship, which is one of the components of our Children's Ministry grew from an average of 30 children (grades 1-5) each Sunday morning to over 45 these last few months.

We had record attendances in AWANA in 2009 with an average exceeding 100. This is a ministry for children ages 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade on Wednesday nights.

Our Student Ministry (grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>) experienced growth and changes to their philosophy and moved to become more of a Biblical community, living out the standards of New Testament Christianity.

The Outreach Ministry follows up with our First-time attenders with a "Welcome Gift". This last year they made 92 visitor contacts which is up from 74 in 2008.

The Discipleship Ministry experienced the growth of more small groups meeting together in 2009 than ever before. Not only do we have groups that meet on Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. times, but also throughout the week. There are support groups like "First Place 4 Health", "GriefShare" and "Divorce Care" that meet periodically.

A church-wide focus on stewardship was a concentration during the last quarter of the year. This encompassed our children's ministry, student ministry and adult ministry. We had numerous people commit to getting out of debt, remain out of debt, begin tithing, continue to tithe as well as those who committed to give beyond the tithe. Malachi 3:10 promises... ***"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*** I believe God will continue to bless us as we are faithful in our lives to God.

Due to your generosity in 2009, we were able to bless our missionaries more than ever before. We support and gave nearly \$71,000 to 20 different missions. We were then able to give above and beyond that amount this last year since our giving exceeded our budget and we gave more than an additional \$11,000 to our missions based upon their needs.

The Foyer Remodel began to relieve our overcrowded foyer. The newly remodeled foyer will make it more inviting and open for all attendees. We anticipate the foyer remodel to be completed by Easter.

On July 17, 1890, Central Church of Christ drew up our Articles of Incorporation and officially became a church. We are planning ways through 2010 to celebrate 140 years of living in faith to please God.

On July 17-18, we are planning some special events to mark the ways God has blessed this congregation. We will have some special guest speakers through the year to help us celebrate.

We are planning on having "Bethlehem Walk" Christmas 2010. This is a great opportunity to witness to over 2,000 people about the birth of our Savior.

We plan on adding a new full-time staff member, a Worship Minister. Rick Jepsen has done a tremendous job as our part-time Worship Minister. He will still be a part of the worship team and will work to make this transition a tremendous success.

There will be many more opportunities this year to live out our faith to please God in 2010 as we love, grow, serve and go. Please continue to pray and live out your faith that God will be pleased with our congregation as we reach out to the community of Streator, the surrounding area and throughout the world.

# BLESSING OUR MISSIONS

By Bill Coats

Due to your generosity we were able to bless our missions more than ever before. We supported 20 different Missions in 2009, by giving nearly \$71,000 as a congregation to missions.

In addition, since God has blessed us with the ability to give more than budgeted, we (as a congregation) are blessing missions with the money given over the 2009 budget. That means we have given our missions another \$5,000 before December 31 and will be giving them the remaining money over budget of more than \$6,000 in January of 2010. This money is given to our missions based on their need. This blessing couldn't come at a better time for our missions, many who are struggling because of the value of the dollar and decreased giving from churches who are struggling themselves.

Following are some of the mission areas we have given to, over what we normally would have been able to:

**Adventure Christian Church** in Bradley is a church plant we supported for several years and then as they became self supporting we moved to other missions. They are in the process of moving into another building and remodeling. We were able to help them with money to put in a baptistry. You can follow this church and their progress via their web site at <http://www.theadventurechurch.com>

**Carroll Fulford – South Africa** for outreach to the South Africans.

**Axiom at the University of Illinois** – To help them with their deficit.

**Encounter Campus Ministries at ISU** – To help them with their deficit.

**Eric Elder Ministries** – To help purchase equipment needed to continue his internet ministry.

**Haitian Christian Outreach** – Purchased 33 desks which seat 4 students each totaling 132 seats.

**Kagoshima Christian Mission** – Japan – To help financially due to the value of the dollar.

**London Bridge – England** – To help financially due to the value of the dollar.

**Northern European Evangelism Mission** – To help financially due to the value of the dollar.

**Eastern Dominican Christian Mission** – To help purchase property to expand their ministry.

**Soldiers for Jesus** – To buy Bibles and outreach materials.

**Unspecified** – We have a missionary in an area so sensitive we can't release the name and mission for safety reasons who we helped with medical needs.

You can go to [www.christiscentral.com](http://www.christiscentral.com) under the QuickLinks tab to read more about the missions we support.

Below are some excerpts of responses to your generous gift to our missions:

“Thank you so incredibly much for your kindness and generosity. What a fantastic surprise to start the New Year. What an amazing God we have and we praise Him for the generosity of folks at Central that even in this economic climate you were able to meet the budget expectations.”

Continued on page 4

# Scrapbooking Night!

Anyone interested in the art of scrapbooking or stamping is invited to **Central's Scrapbooking Weekend** to be held on Friday, January 29, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring your own materials and tools to the Ministry Center Lower Level and join others in a time of fellowship and fun. Please bring a snack to share.

## Happy 90th Birthday

Virginia Sirotnak, a member who moved away to be with family is celebrating her 90th birthday on January 30, 2010. She has many warm memories of her time here would enjoy receiving cards from her Central family. Her address is:

Virginia Sirotnak  
Mercer County Nursing Home  
309 NW 9th Avenue  
Aledo, IL 61231

## Thank you Note

We would like to thank Karyn Bentlin and the ladies of the church for all the good food that was donated and the fine dinner that was provided following the death of our mother, Virginia Broad. We would also like to thank Butch for a wonderful service and extend our appreciation to all of our church family for their prayers and support through this difficult time.

In Christian Love,  
--Ken and Shirley Broad  
--Jennifer and Gene Taylor  
--Tom and Angie Broad

## Missions

Continued from page 3

"Thanks so much...that is an answer to a very specific prayer."

"God is good! Thank you."

"Thanks for the additional help with the parsonage property for Victor and Yudermly Jimenez."

"Please express our deep thanks to everyone there for this very generous and timely gift of money for the ministry here."

"We are very blessed to have a supporting church like Central Church of Christ."

"May God continue to bless and use you mightily for His Kingdom in 2010."

"Thanks so much for the faithfulness your church has shown in blessing us! It is greatly appreciated."

"On behalf of all the missionaries, I want to thank all of the congregation for their prayers and their faithful support of our labors. We cannot do this on our own, and you are really showing the spirit of Christ when you partner together with us in this work. Part of the reward for souls that are won and nurtured through us belongs to you. And we know that the Lord Jesus himself will share that reward with you, just as if you were here yourself, teaching and preaching the word of God."

"Yes, the work goes on, and with all of us working together the victory will be won."

In summary, we don't know what 2010 will bring us, but you have richly blessed our missionaries. We hope you feel blessed to know how you have helped to win people to Christ, not just locally but worldwide.

**"From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16**

NIV

## In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of Leah Russow, a member who moved to Macon, Illinois, where she passed away on December 30, 2009.



Virginia Broad, mother to Jennifer (Gene) Taylor, Kenneth (Shirley) Broad and Tom (Angie) Broad died on Thursday, December 31, 2009. Her funeral service was held on Monday, January 4, 2010. Our sympathy to the Broad family.

Our condolences and prayers are with Janice Wilson at the passing of her husband, Jack. He died on Monday, January 4, 2010. His funeral service was here on Saturday, January 9, 2010.

## It's a Girl!

**Kinslee Marie Sweeden**



Travis and Jennifer Sweeden are the parents of a daughter, Kinslee Marie Sweeden, born Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 11:54 p.m. She weighed eight and four ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Grandparents include Dave and Lori Sweeden.

# Central Student Ministries

Chad Kennedy

## The Schedule

**Jan. 12**, DT for Sr. High at 4:00 p.m.; Sr. High Ignite at 6:30 p.m.

**Jan. 13**, Jr. High Ignite at 6:15 p.m.

**Jan. 17**, Band Practice at 4:00 p.m.; Sponsor's Meeting at 5:00 p.m.; Unite at 6:00 p.m.

**Jan. 18**, Bowling in Peru at the Super Bowl. Cost is \$10 plus money for lunch. We are leaving at 10:30 a.m. and returning home about 3:00 p.m. Sign up if interested.

**Jan. 19**, DT for Sr. High at 4:00 p.m.; Sr. High Ignite at 6:30 p.m.

**Jan. 20**, Jr. High Ignite at 6:15 p.m.

**Jan. 24**, Band Practice at 4:00 p.m.; Sponsor's Meeting at 5:00 p.m.; Unite at 6:00 p.m.

## Tubing With Aurora

Date: January 29 and 30 We will spend the night Friday at the church and tube on Saturday.

Place: Sunburst in Kewaskum, WI

Cost: \$30

Deadline: January 17

For more information, call the church or go to the church's website under Central Student Ministries.

## Faith and Family Night

Date: Friday February 12, 2010

Time: Leaving at 5:00 p.m. Game Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Includes: Peoria Rivermen Hockey Game and Post-game Christian Concert from NeedToBreathe. Your spot will be reserved when you pay your \$25. There are only 30 seats available.

## Attention Parents

The January Parent Link will be available on Sunday. You can receive it on-line at [www.christiscentral.com](http://www.christiscentral.com) under the parent page under the youth section or you can pick it up at any of the welcome centers. If you would like it to be e-mailed to you, please e-mail Chad at [chad@christiscentral.com](mailto:chad@christiscentral.com).

# Discipleship

Butch Ringwald

I want to thank all of you for your thoughtful cards and gifts. They helped us survive the most difficult Christmas season we have experienced in our lives. Your cards and gifts were a ray of sunshine in the midst of the gloom of grief. Your hugs, handshakes and words of love and encouragement bring comfort to our hearts, mind and spirit. Thank you for being here for us and with us during this time of sorrow.

I know that it is important for us to have the right guidance throughout our lives. I just read a news article about Jeramie Griffin who received a new GPS for Christmas. He and his fiancé had made trips to his future in-laws home before, but the new GPS revealed a shortcut that would save them 40 minutes. Following the guidance of the GPS, they turned off the state highway onto a local road. It wasn't long before they were stuck in snow and stranded in an area that had no cell phone service. After taking exploratory hikes, trying to dig out and spending the night in their car, the distraught couple filmed a goodbye video.

Griffin and his fiancé were eventually rescued the following day when other family members used a GPS to try to discover what route Jeramie may have taken. It also showed the shortcut and led them to their stranded family members.

Even though shortcuts can be enticing, we may not know the perils they can lead to. We need to make sure we have the right guidance. Police officials urge drivers to stick with common sense over the GPS instructions and to use a *printed map* to double check the route, especially during the winter months when farm roads, logging roads and other roads may not be safe.

We would be wise to do the same thing. We need to use the printed map of God's Word for guidance in our lives. It will never lead us astray or put us in danger.

Why not read through the Bible this year? Reading guides are available at the Welcome Centers and also [christiscentral.com/325698.ihtml](http://christiscentral.com/325698.ihtml)



## Kid Central

Evelyn Taylor, Children's Director



Kid Music Central started on Jan. 10 with a Kickoff party. There is practice every Sunday night from 6:00-7:45 p.m. for the Spring Musical "jailhouse Rock". A registration fee of \$10 applies to help cover the cost of t-shirts, books and cd's. Registration will be Sunday night, Jan. 17, when you bring your child. This is for children in first grade

through fifth grade and they meet in the Kid Central Room.

Also, Tot Music Central is available for any child three-years-old through Kindergarten. They meet on Sunday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Beginner Classroom.

## **Children's Dept. Volunteer meetings**

If you are volunteer in Central's Nursery Department, there is a meeting scheduled for 2:00 p.m., January 17 in the Chapel.

Volunteers in Central's Toddler Department have a meeting scheduled for 2:00p.m. on Sunday, January 24 in the Chapel.

# The Torch

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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Dated material

## Statistics for Dec. 27, 2009

1st Worship	30	
2nd Worship	138	
3rd Worship	179	Total 399
Bible classes	128	

## Statistics for Jan. 3, 2010

1st Worship	28	
2nd Worship	154	
3rd Worship	226	Total 408
Bible classes	159	

## Statistics for Jan. 10, 2010

1st Worship	38	
2nd Worship	167	
3rd Worship	296	Total 501
Bible classes	188	

## Offerings



Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D  
for 2010:

\$23,452.74

Offerings given to-date:

\$26,377.46

Financial Statement available at the  
Welcome Center or the office

## Elders' and Church Leaders' Conference at LCU

February 20, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

at Lincoln Christian University, Lincoln, IL

### SPECIAL:

As a means to encourage Central Church of Christ leaders to attend we are offering \$20 off the \$30 cost of this conference to the first ten (10) leaders who have not been to a Leadership conference before. So for only \$10 you can join us at the conference this year if you are one of the first ten to sign up and pay at the church office and you haven't gone before.

In addition we are offering \$10 off to the first ten (10) leaders who have gone to a Leadership conference before. So for only \$20 you can join us at the conference if you are one of the first ten to sign up and pay at the church office. Notice: You must be a member of Central Church of Christ, a church leader and pay at the church office by February 8, to take advantage of this offer.



## Women are invited to Movie Night January 15

For those attending Friday, January 15 Girlfriends' Event, admission to the movie is a baby item donated to the Showering Sisters Ministry. Also bring your favorite snack. There will be a pre-show of Comedianne Chonda Pierce and the movie will be a continuation of the movies for Love Comes Softly Series. This starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. Childcare is provided with advanced notice.