

Central Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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PERIODICAL



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Congregational Meeting — Sanctuary

To vote on operating budget for fiscal year 2015-16.
Sunday, June 28, following the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services

Reredos Update

The reredos (the stately wooden partition on which the silver Celtic cross is hung) has been behind the lectern during the Easter Season on a trial basis. The purpose of moving the reredos for this period has been to enhance the choir's and congregation's greater participation in worship. The choir and congregation are visibly gathered around the communion table, the choir can see the communion table and Children's Moment, and the congregation can see and hear the choir (and vice versa) unobstructed.

Over sixty persons have shared an opinion. Eighty percent favor the movement. Twenty percent have asked if it is possible to restore the cross to a place of prominence at the table, thereby providing a focal point for our weekly celebration of the Lord's Table.

The Meaningful Worship Opportunity Area, meeting with David Shirey on May 27, discussed the feasibility of crafting a handsome wooden standard on which the silver cross could be displayed and placed behind the center of the communion table. The dark standard would serve to frame and highlight the cross, both of which would provide the desired focal point at the table. Since the standard would not be nearly as wide as the reredos, the desired visibility and participation of choir and congregation would be increased significantly. We are now taking steps to craft a model of such a standard to see how it appears.

Thank you for your patience and thoughtful contributions to this ongoing dialogue as we discern together the most amenable way forward to enhance our worship.

Sunday in Worship

June 14, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Rev. David Shirey,
preaching

Rev. Chad Snellgrove,
leading worship

Phil Points, elder

11 a.m.

Rev. David Shirey,
preaching

Rev. Chad Snellgrove
and Tracy Schwieterman,
leading worship

Rod Brewer and
Lynda Woodard, elders

Connect:

Sunday services are broadcast live at 11 a.m. on WWTF-1580 AM and streamed on iHeart Radio. You may also listen to the sermon on our website at centralchristianlex.org. Look for us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralChristianLex>.

Twenty years ago, our choir in North Carolina presented John Leavitt's *Missa Festiva*. For folks like me whose Latin is rusty or nonexistent, that's *Festival Mass*—a five-part choral work based on the movements of the Roman Catholic Mass: *Kyrie; Gloria; Credo; Sanctus; Agnus Dei*.

It was a stretch for our southeastern North Carolina choir to attempt such a difficult work. They were stretched theologically (low-church protestants singing high church Roman Catholic liturgy), linguistically (singing Latin), and musically (it was a tough piece). But our choir was up for the challenge.

The piece was introduced at a weekend retreat at a (Catholic) Retreat Center overlooking the ocean. They learned about the Catholic Mass, received some Latin lessons, and listened to a cassette recording of the music. (I told you this was a long time ago.) By the end of the first night, the choir was rolling their eyes: not my religion, not my language, not my music. But they were determined to press on.

The choir director made tapes of the music, created a phonetic pronunciation guide to the Latin text, and highlighted the scores page by page. There followed

long nights of rehearsal over three months' time. It came together in fits and starts. The tricky harmony in the *Sanctus*. The impossible high note in the Amen of the *Agnus Dei*. The *nomine domine* page turn. The changes in time signature.

Orchestral parts were added. In our budget-strapped music ministry, "orchestra" amounted to Brad (who played in a rock 'n' roll band on Friday nights) playing a borrowed gong and a cymbal. Janis played a xylophone from her school. Sara, our accompanist, did everything else on piano. Our secretary produced a bulletin complete with the Latin text and English translation (When I gave it to her, she rolled her eyes.) I taught a Sunday morning class introducing the whole thing theologically, linguistically, and musically.

It all came together. I was proud of our choir. They sang with verve, confidence, and joy.

For how many people? A hundred, maybe, in open neck sport shirts, colorful blouses, and shorts (It was a beach town, mind you.) Some sat in rapt attention, others kicked back in the pews as if it was the bottom of the sixth inning.

Continued on page 2

From David Shirey, continued from page one

Several straggled in late. All that work for twenty minutes of music in front of a few dozen folks in varying degrees of attentiveness. Was it worth it?

Several years ago, I visited the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Our tour guide, when he learned I was a pastor, pointed to the top of the cathedral.

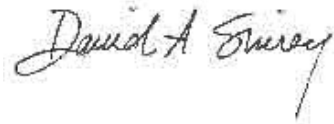
"Do you see those gargoyles up at the top?"

"Yeah, barely. With binoculars I could see them better."

"Well" he said, "A story's told about the stonemason who chiseled out those gargoyles. Someone asked him, "Why are you spending so much time on such detail when those things will barely be seen by the people down below?"

The stonemason responded, "I'm not doing this for the people down below."

Over the past few months, Central's and Crestwood's choirs gave themselves to learning, rehearsing, and singing Brahms' *Requiem*. Last Thursday night, they presented the masterpiece in masterful fashion before a very well attended, attentive, appreciative congregation. Note to choirs: I appreciate all you did to present that masterpiece. But I know you weren't doing it for me...



Habitat Plans Proceed

We are moving right along with our plans to start construction on our 33rd Habitat house on June 24th. Thank you to those who have contributed money for the cost of building materials, signed up to work on the build, and agreed to donate food to feed the workers.

If you missed the opportunity to contribute to the special offering, you can give at any time. Merely indicate in the memo line of the check that it is for the Habitat house. If you missed the sign-up for work or didn't know when you would be able to work, contact Paul Warner to get your name and email address on the list. Before each work day, an email blast will go out indicating the nature of the work for that day.

If you still want to contribute food, contact Jennie Shirey.

Memorial Gifts

The following gift has been given...

In memory of

Jody McDaniel

(to the Central Music Academy)

by

Florence Staton



News from the Central Music Academy

This spring the Central Music Academy is graduating 11 seniors! They will all be taking college classes this fall, many on scholarship; schools they will be attending include the University of Southern California, UK, NKU, Transylvania University, and

BCTC. Three of the 11 will be majoring in music at UK this fall; we hope to have them back at CMA soon...as teachers, rather than students!

The Central Music Academy is in its 11th year of operating as a nonprofit music school. We give free musical training to financially disadvantaged children. As the only school in Central Kentucky that gives free weekly half-hour private music lessons on all instruments (including voice, percussion, woodwinds, brass, piano, guitar, and strings) and to all levels of learners, the Central Music Academy's overarching goals are to build personal capacity, discipline, musical skills, and self-esteem within at-risk youth. Since CMA's inception in 2004, we have given more than 25,000 free lessons to over 850 students.

Past CMA students have successfully auditioned into SCAPA, CKYO, all-district/all-state choir, band, and orchestra, as well as UK, ECU, Kentucky State, Transy, and Morehead State. They have a 100% high school graduation rate, and of all high school seniors studying at CMA at the time of their graduation (including the class of 2015), 100% have gone on to college. Currently we give 105 students free lessons; another 100 students are on our waiting list.

CMA's second annual "CMA Rocks the House" fundraising event will occur from 6-9 pm on August 21 at the Loudoun House. The event includes a unique silent auction, showcasing vinyl records re-worked by some of Lexington's leading artists; it also features performances of CMA students and teachers. Tickets are \$45 before June 30 and \$50 after; they are available through CMA's website, www.centralmusicacademy.org.

Through June 30, a private foundation is offering CMA a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$30,000: they will match any amount given by new donors. For previous supporters, the foundation will match any amount above their 2014 gifts. So you can double your money if you give in the next few weeks! To pledge a donation, please see Josh Santana after Sunday's services, or visit CMA's website.

CentrALL June Activities

CentrALL invites you to join them in viewing "Prayers for Bobby" on Sunday, June 14, 4-6 p.m., in the CYF room. "Prayers for Bobby" is a movie based on a true story of one woman's spiritual journey to accept her son's sexuality. Snacks will be provided.

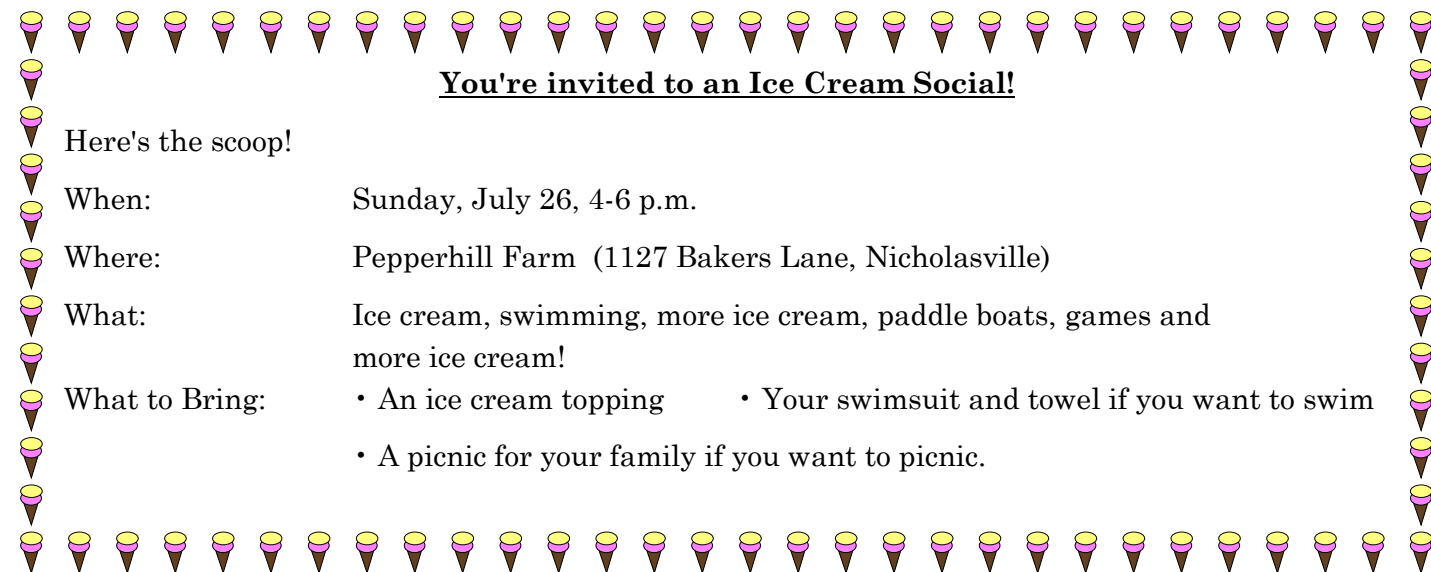
We also invite your participation at the Central Christian Church booth during the Lexington PRIDE Festival June 27. Stop by our booth to say hello while you are at the festival or serve as a volunteer. Please see Scarlett Thomas, Shakayle Raney, or Rev. Elizabeth if you would like to volunteer.

Our Sympathy

To Kevin and Laura Avent in the death of Kevin's uncle, Mike Sheffield.

New 3rd-5th Grade Experience

Beginning this Sunday, June 14, our third, fourth, and fifth graders are invited to participate in a new worship experience on the second Sunday of each month. After the children's moment, this group will have a mission-focused activity in the Children's Area. Julianna Nitz, assisted by Elizabeth Sames, will provide creative mission opportunities that align with the larger church's outreach opportunities. contact Rev. Elizabeth (859) 233-1551 or one of the leaders with any questions.



You're invited to an Ice Cream Social!

Here's the scoop!

When: Sunday, July 26, 4-6 p.m.

Where: Pepperhill Farm (1127 Bakers Lane, Nicholasville)

What: Ice cream, swimming, more ice cream, paddle boats, games and more ice cream!

What to Bring:

- An ice cream topping
- Your swimsuit and towel if you want to swim
- A picnic for your family if you want to picnic.