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VOCALPOINT FINISHES A UNIQUE 10TH SEASON

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON]

Drum Roll, Please

In celebration of our 10 years as VocalPoint, we held a birthday party. . . outside! Thanks to all who attended, and contributed to our 9 non-profit partners.

We raised \$16,320! WOW!!!

Total amount raised in all 10 seasons (not including matching grants) is \$217,218.

Your generosity is stunning. . . Thank you!

Marking Our 10th Year

The VocalPoint Board and Operations Team has decided to commission a new piece in honor of our 10th year! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to get a new song that speaks to our mission out there in the world.

I’ll have some more information on how you can support these efforts in the weeks ahead, including helping us select the composer and financially supporting this project.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, March 7

Join us this Sunday as we witness our first worship sermon with Rev. Dr. Carol Reed, Central's new Transitional Pastor! (Learn more about Carol on page 7.) At 11:30 a.m. head over to Zoom and join us for coffee time.

Sunday, March 14

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS! (SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD)

This Sunday we continue our Lent sermon series *Praying the Psalms* with Rev. Reed.

Sunday, March 21

Join us online at 10:30 a.m. for the official launch of Central's new live streaming worship service! Simply

head over to our website at www.centralforgood.org and follow the link to experience worship as it happens, with the opportunity to chat with others!

At 11:30 a.m., join us for a special coffee time when we will officially welcome Rev. Reed!

Sunday, March 28

Join us for worship on this Palm Sunday as we remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and look towards preparations for Jesus to celebrate the Passover meal with his disciples.

On this day, there will be an annual meeting of the congregation. The official notification will be sent to all congregation members, as well as shared in the weekly eConnect.



Help Us Welcome Pastor Carol Reed

All are invited to the welcome reception for Pastor Carol Reed during the Zoom Coffee Time on Sunday, March 21, starting at 11:30 a.m. As part of this reception, Kiera Faye will be assembling a video montage of your welcome messages!

Feel free to send a 10-second welcome message (as simple as "Welcome Pastor Carol!" or

"Welcome to Central!") or take a photo including your smiling faces and maybe a welcoming sign.

Email to kierafaye@gmail.com by March 14 with subject "Welcome Pastor Carol." You will also see a file transfer link in the eConnect.

Let's show Pastor Carol the warm welcome of our Central community!

CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed,
Transitional Pastor
carolr@cpkstpaul.org, ext 102

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100

Christie Rachele,
Director of Communications
christier@centralforgood.org, ext. 105
(952) 564-4472

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist

Lavar Jones, Sexton

MUSIC

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org, ext. 103

Music Staff: Shanta Hejmadi,
Abbie Betinis, Adam Van der Sluis,
Steve Swanson, David Winkworth

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Katie Morris, Children & Youth
Ministry Coordinator
katiem@centralforgood.org, ext. 109

Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider

Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

FOOD INITIATIVE

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager
Barb.westman@gmail.com

Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef

Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

MARTHA'S CLOSET

Sandy White, Director
martha@centralforgood.org, ext. 112

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

[BY KATIE MORRIS]

Connecting and Fellowship

Central's Children and Youth Committee continues to try out new ways to connect! We're taking advantage of this time to be flexible and try new things, so to keep most up-to-date on upcoming activities, make sure that you're on our weekly C&Y email list.

If you're not, let Katie Morris know by dropping an email note to katiem@centralforgood.org!

Lent and Holy Week

We are in the midst of Lent, the liturgical season that takes us into the season of Easter. I love the season of Lent – perhaps it's something about the way the sparse reflectiveness I feel in this season matches up with the stark and quiet winter that so often accompanies the months of February and March where I've lived. Or perhaps it's the knowledge that though we will walk through the darkness of Holy Week, death will not be the last word in God's story. These realities though, can make the season of Lent feel quite scary and uncertain. We have been swimming in times of fear and uncertainty for the last year, so this doesn't exactly feel like the moment for more.

What can we do to make this season of Lent feel constructive and restorative, both for ourselves and for the little ones whom we love? Finding practices to join in together as a

family is a wonderful way to walk through the season together – if you missed our Lenten goody bag deliveries, which have a devotional and activities that you can do together, please reach out! We'd love to get one to you!

Another resource that has been powerful for me is Laura Alary's book about the season of Lent called *Make Room: A Children's Guide to Lent and Easter*. She emphasizes the importance of creating space during Lent – Jesus' time in the wilderness was characterized by space and making room to hear God's voice – how can we do this in our own lives? In Alary's book she also tells the story of Holy Week in simple language, but does not dwell on the violence, rather she lets the fact of Jesus' death be what it is – sad and sorrowful.

We can make space for recognizing this sadness and questions around it – and we can be okay with saying, "I don't know." The emotions of Holy Week are vast and varied, and I continue to come back to that idea of making space. Making space for the sorrow, the uncertainty, and the joy.

This year I've found the words of Austin Crenshaw Shelley particularly resonant in *A Poem on the Eve of Lent*. (See right) They remind us that we are God's beloved dust, and that God can do incredible things with God's beloved dust.

Peace.

Poem on the Eve of Lent

[BY AUSTIN CRENSHAW SHELLEY]

God's beloved dust,
fabric of the universe -
of planets newly discovered
and ruins ancient, broken and us.

God's beloved dust,
we'll walk into wilderness
on a Wednesday -
a wilderness of words
and want and wonder,
a wilderness for the wise
and the weary.

God's beloved dust,
ushered from pew to pastor,
they will pause.
Eyes averted or closed
or resolute in meeting mine,
an awkward encounter
breaking the boundary of space -
to touch another's face
and to mark it mortal.

God's beloved dust,
thumb to forehead,
brokenhearted,
breaking with tradition,
I will say

to God's beloved dust -
to the squirming infant
barely a month from the womb,
to the mother, head scarfed,
halfway through chemotherapy,
to the wrinkled widow
well acquainted with ashes:

Remember you are God's beloved
dust and to God's beloved dust
you shall return.

And we will watch and wait
to witness
what God can do
with God's beloved dust.

VOCALPOINT FINISHES [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Virtual Choir

In worship on February 21, we shared the Virtual Choir song, "Rise". Huge thank to all of you who made this virtual choir piece happen.

What's Next?

Want to be involved in the behind-the-scenes work for next season?

Send me a note indicating what skills you have, the types of things you are interested in, and the time commitment that you can make.

Think you know of a good partner organization for us to support?

First, take a look at our requirements at www.vocalpointchorus.org/apply. If you think the org you like would be a good fit, encourage them to apply. (We don't reach out to them, so telling us that they would be a good fit doesn't really do any good.) Obviously, Covid is making everything more up in the air, but typically, we would start interviewing

in the spring. Have the org follow us on Facebook, sign up for our emails, or watch our website.

Want to sing with us next year?

We are an "audition and invitation" choir. This means that we require an audition to sing with us, but if after your first audition I feel like I know your voice and you still are a good fit with our mission, we may extend an invitation for you to sing with us again. Plan to audition unless you specifically hear otherwise from me in the fall.

What is our typical schedule?

Every year VocalPoint looks a little different, but here is a general guide to our year together.

- Spring: Applications are received, and non-profits are interviewed to become our partner organization. We also sometimes hold special supply

drives or extra singing events (for example, "Harmony in the Park" or "Northern Voice Festival." Or... The infamous Edina Art Fair.)

- Fall: We hold auditions, and we have our kick-off event in October where we begin sharing what our season will be about. This includes singing and an informational lunch.
- January/February: We rehearse, and we often tour the non-profit and hold opportunities for people to learn more about the issue at hand. (For example, watching "13th" or reading "The New Jim Crow" or doing art projects with the kids at Neighborhood House, then having that art used at our concerts!)
- 2nd weekend in February (usually): Our concerts! Concert week consists of a dress rehearsal (usually on the Thursday) and



then 4 pm concerts on Saturday and Sunday. A catered dinner is held after the Saturday concert, along with a short program of gratitude.

Next year will be its own unique year – they all are. I hope that we are together, safely, in the same room, making music that amplifies the best of our world. What story will we tell? What will we amplify? We don't know yet, but I hope you'll be a part of it, and invite others to join us as well.

Thank you for supporting us this year, and for helping us make this a meaningful season. Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!



VIRTUAL COFFEE TIME

Save the Date!

After watching worship on Sunday mornings, head over to Zoom for a casual coffee time with others from Central. Coffee Time is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. with the same Zoom link for all.

Join us on March 21st for a special coffee time as we officially welcome Pastor Reed to Central! (See page 2 for a special request.)

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541611955>

VIA PHONE CALL IN:

(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 825 4161 1955#

Kiera Faye will lead and there will be opportunity to talk with many in break-out groups.

4 WAYS TO GIVE

While we are unable to pass the collection plate in our online worship, we invite you to give through several other ways.



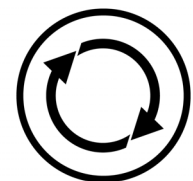
Donate Online

www.centralforgood.org/give



Mail a Check

500 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101



Recurring Transfer

Set up an automatic bank transfer



Deliver In-Person

Contact the office to arrange a day/time for drop off.

QUESTIONS?

Call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100

SUPPORT BIPOC BUSINESSES

Central's Anti-Racist Task Force (ARTF) continues to study and act, embodying the congregation's resolve to work on eliminating the racial wealth gap in the Twin Cities. Based on their own experience, members have compiled the following partial list of local businesses owned or operated by Black, indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC).

Central's Anti-Racism Task Force welcomes additional suggestions, in order to create a more complete directory. To add businesses, contact ARTF chairperson Lou Bender at lbender@aol.com.

BABANI'S

32 E. Fillmore Ave, St. Paul
651-602-9964
www.babanis.com

BOCA CHICA RESTAURANTE

11 Cesar Chavez St., St. Paul.
www.bocachicarestaurant.com

EL BURRITO MERCADO

175 Cesar Chavez St., St Paul.
651-227-2192
www.elburritostp.com

FIREBOX DELI

1585 Marshall, Ave., St Paul.
651-414-9986
www.fireboxdeli.com

HIMALAYAN RESTAURANT

2910 E. Lake St., Minneapolis.
612-332-0880
himalayanrestaurantmn.menufy.com

SOUL FOOD AT DRIFTWOOD CHAR BAR

4415 Nicollet Ave.
South, Minneapolis
www.wholesouleatery.com



HOMI

864 University Ave. West, St. Paul.
651-222-0655
www.homi.com

KHYBER PASS CAFÉ

1571 Grand Ave, St. Paul
651-690-0505
www.khyberpasscafe.com

LOS OCAMPO

615 University Ave. West, St. Paul
651-340-5311 www.losocampo.com

REMIX POPCORN AND DELIGHTS

2042 Marshall Ave, St. Paul
651-207-4225
www.remix.delights.com

SAWATDEE

486 Robert St. North, St. Paul
651-528-7106
www.sawatdee.com

SKYWAY MASALA

444 Cedar St., Suite 216, St. Paul
320-566-9759
www.skywaymasala.com

HERCLEON (MASKS)

online business
www.hercleon.com

TASTE OF RONDO BAR & GRILL

976 Concordia Ave., St. Paul
651-348-2615
www.tasteofrondostp.com

TOMMIE'S PIZZA

1556 Selby Ave., St. Paul
651-432-4743
www.tommiespizza.com

ZAIT AND ZA'ATAR MARKET AND DELI

1626 Selby Ave, St Paul
651-493-7438
www.zaitzaatar.com

BOUQUETS BY CAROLYN

920 Selby Ave., St. Paul
651-487-8122
www.bouquetsbycarolyn.net

BUTTERS BY JAY

Mall of America, Bloomington
www.buttersbyjay.com/post/grow-your-blog-community

ROUGE URBAN SALON

1743 Selby Ave., St. Paul
651-646-2675
www.rougeurbansalon.com

Women's Networking Group

This group is a great way to informally connect with women in our congregation. Our next monthly gathering will be on Monday, March 15th from 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.

VIA COMPUTER / SMARTPHONE:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89850192750>

VIA PHONE CALL IN:
(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 898 5019 2750#

To be added to our mailing list, email women@centralforgood.org and receive the Zoom link direct to your inbox.



MEET PASTOR CAROL REED

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed grew up in Minnesota and lived a number of places before returning to her home state. She began her career path earning a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Wisconsin – Stout in Home Economics Education. She felt the call to ministry while teaching at a high school in Jamaica.

Carol attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) to do mission service in South Korea. She has served churches in New York state,

Wisconsin, Minnesota, and a Uniting Church congregation in Melbourne, Australia, plus worked in funds development for a mission agency related to the Presbyterian Church (USA). She completed a Doctor of Ministry degree at Luther Seminary in St. Paul in Congregational Mission and Leadership.

In her free time Carol is an avid walker, loves hiking, gardening, traveling, reading, and doing fiber arts such as weaving and quilting.

Happy BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Join us in wishing a very *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating birthdays this month.

- Caitlyn Welch 3/2
- Barb Westman 3/3
- William Zopfi 3/3
- Cheryl Williamson 3/4
- Bradley Peterson 3/5
- Andrei Kelly-Kennedy 3/8
- Amy Adams 3/9
- David Fisher 3/9
- Marilyn Gjerde 3/9
- Laura Henry 3/10
- Farie Hogue 3/10
- Stephanie Geisler 3/14
- Sally Mortenson 3/14
- Alexis Linner 3/15
- Gracyn Jagger 3/16
- Lawrence Larson 3/17
- Cora Jones 3/18
- Jeffery Linner 3/18
- Gloriana Wolf 3/18
- Abe Smith 3/19
- Paula Coeey 3/21
- Grace Toikka 3/22
- Mary Lou Gilstad 3/24
- Derek Peterson 3/25
- Mary Rose Lee 3/26
- Annie Siebell 3/28
- April Greibrok 3/29

If we missed you, please send us a note to office@centralforgood.org so that we can correct our records and share birthday wishes with you as well!



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 1077

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Looking for a conversation connection? The Deacons of Central are pleased to continue their Connection Circles as a means for people to meet online and check in with each other. These casual Zoom events offer a means for our community to gather and connect with people of all ages.

Connection Circles run every Thursday from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., with the same information for all circles.

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229900980>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:

(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 872 2990 0980#

See you in the circle!

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*