

# reaching up to God:

## the pastor's journal

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Dear Central Friends in Christ,

*"The lazy days of summer....."*

This familiar description of the dog days of July and August may work as we're vacationing with family and friends, enjoying a concert in the park or a night at the Royals game, but it certainly doesn't describe our church and its ministry! Though the schedule changes somewhat in the summer months, our ministry to others for Christ, continues! During the month of July, we will commission our youth mission team and prepare our Mozambique volunteers in mission (VIM) team for their trip in August. Don't forget to join us in July for the "Text Me Jesus" sermon series and bring your cell phones to church! You will be able to talk to the preacher by texting your questions and participating in the sermon!

A few other updates on ministry that continues this summer at Central:

- The financial Feasibility Study, measuring the capacity for generosity toward our capital plan to expand and redevelop ministry facilities, will be returned and studied. This will be our guide to planning throughout the month of August. We are grateful to the over 85 participants in this study and our consulting firm, **RSI**, for equipping us with more information about our congregation's readiness for stepping forward in faith. We look forward to sharing the study and learning from it in August and throughout the Fall.
- The Music and Worship Transition Team, as assembled by the Staff Parish Relations Committee will be working throughout July to assemble a volunteer and contracted leadership team to staff organ playing, choir leadership and worship



coordination throughout the Fall. The Team will also conduct a nationwide search for new staff leadership. Please pray for Ken Adams, Will Anderson, Janna Cochran, Quinn Cochran, Pam Flory, Amy Gearhart, John Pinkston II, Norma Stevens, and Jim Thornton as they are guided by God to identify new leadership for our worship and music ministries at Central.

Thank you to all those who helped to celebrate Dr. Barry Wenger's ministry among us on June 28! What a wonderful picnic, sharing of stories, and service of sending forth—all experiences that helped us to thank God for Barry's ministry among us and send him with our blessings as he and Steve go to serve God in Chicago.

I pray that you and yours are able to experience some rest and renewal in these summer days, as I have enjoyed with my family. God calls us to the mountaintops for prayer and reflection so that we might return to the valleys

where God's people are waiting for signs and words of hope and love. I celebrate the privilege of serving with you and knowing the joy of making a difference in the lives of people for the cause of Christ!

See you in church on Sunday!



Rev. Amy L. Gearhart,  
Senior Pastor