



The Weekly News

February 19, 2025

Derek Gripper in Concert at Central this Sunday

What does NPR Tiny Desk Concerts and The Evening Standard have in common? They have both featured acclaimed classical guitarist Derek Gripper who is bringing his unique and lauded style to Central on February 23 for a 7:30 p.m. concert!



VOLUNTEER USHERS NEEDED

How can you get to experience the concert for free? Simply, be an usher. We're seeking an usher to volunteer at the event. Each usher gets an extra ticket for a guest. Interested? Contact Melissa Johnson to register. If you aren't interested in ushering, you'll still want to be at this concert. Click the link below to buy a ticket!

[GET YOUR TICKETS HERE!](#)

PC(USA) Celebrates Black History Month

African American Leaders in the PC(USA)

Shelton Bishop Waters



Born in 1918 in Pittsburgh, PA, Shelton Bishop Waters was named after the priest at the Church of the Holy Cross in Homewood, where his family attended service. Recommended for ministry at a young age, Waters attended Lincoln University and Johnson C. Smith University—his transfer from the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad to trains headed south from Washington was his first experience of sitting in a segregated train car.

In Charlotte, NC, Waters met students from Presbyterian-run elementary and secondary schools training young people for ministry, industrial, and professional careers. It was his first taste of an all-Black presbytery, and an all-Black synod, and his first time studying under Black faculty. From 1947 to 1969, Waters was pastor of First African Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, leading it into a new church building and hosting Martin Luther King Jr. during his visit to the Presbytery, of which Waters was moderator. In his telling, his role in the presbytery was simply to make clear that it was not a white fraternity: “Now and then in presbytery, somebody would go up and make some kind of a joke that didn’t sound just right. And the time came when I was able to get up and tell them, ‘That’s not the kind of thing you say here.’..the time came when they realized they couldn’t get away with that anymore—within the presbytery.”

From 1969 to 1975, Waters was an associate executive of the Synod of the Trinity, in charge of its grant-making for African American students and for students from Appalachia. He then spent 10 years at Northeastern Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. In retirement, he served two other historically-Black Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania: Washington Street in Reading, and Thomas M. Thomas Memorial in Chester.

Church work allowed Waters to travel extensively in Latin America and Africa—he led a delegation to Equatorial Guinea shortly after its independence in 1968, and he served on the the UPCUSA Task Force on Southern Africa in 1970 and 1971, where he toured the South Western Townships of Johannesburg.

Waters was a Synod representative at the funeral of Martin Luther King Jr., riding the train through a heavily militarized Washington D.C. down to Atlanta, when finally the reality of King’s absence set in. Reflecting later, Waters said, “We’ve all been changed. I was changed. I was changed suddenly and didn’t realize how great he was until he died,” reminding himself of 2 Samuel 3:38, “Do you not know this day a king has fallen?”

Shelton Bishop Waters died in Rydal Park, PA, March 26, 2013.



Shelton Bishop & Rachel Ellen Tate Waters, 1950s.



Read more about Shelton Bishop Waters on the PHS blog
history.pcusa.org/about/blog/african-american-leaders-series



Learn about the AALC Initiative
history.pcusa.org/aalc

Click on the image above to download a PDF.

[Click here for more on Black Presbyterian leaders.](#)

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Plan to stay following the Communion Service on Sunday, March 2, as we break bread together again, for lunch and learning. The Mission Committee has arranged for one of our partner organizations, Church for Middle East Peace, to be with us during our congregational lunch as we continue - and broaden - the Winter Studies conversations about peace in the Middle East. Central supports CMEP through financial contributions and is proud to offer this learning opportunity as part of our support.



CHURCHES FOR
MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Learn more about Church for Middle East Peace by [clicking here](#). And please let us know if you plan to join us by clicking the button below.

REGISTER FOR LUNCH



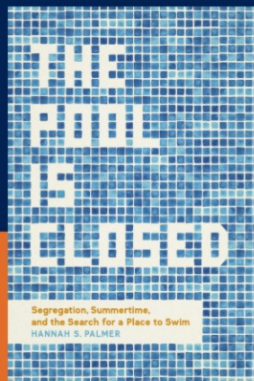


Author Talk and Book Signing with Hannah S. Palmer

EAST POINT LIBRARY

Saturday, February 22 | 2:00 PM

Join us at East Point Library with local author Hannah S. Palmer to discuss her new book, "The Pool is Closed: Segregation, Summertime and the Search for a Place to Swim."



CONNECT WITH US



Centralite and author Hannah S. Palmer will discuss her new book, "The Pool is Closed: Segregation, Summertime and the Search for a Place to Swim" this Saturday, February 22 at 2 p.m. at the East Point Library (2757 Main Street). There is no cost and everyone is invited but please register by emailing: EastPoint.Branch@fultoncounty.ga.gov



GIVE

You may give to Central online using this QR code or by going to cpcatlanta.org.

DEADLINE REMINDER: As a reminder, our deadlines for the Wednesday e-weekly is Monday at noon. If you have an announcement, please email Hala Hess White at hhwhite@cpatlanta.org

Connect

Bookworms
Tuesday, February 25
7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Ellen Thompson

Central's book club, Bookworms, will meet at 7:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 25, in the community room of Heritage Place, 211 Colonial Homes Drive NW, Atlanta 30309, hosted by Ellen Thompson. Our book under discussion is "An Unfinished Love Story," a compelling and remarkable memoir / history by Doris Kearns Goodwin. If you remember the 1960s and the decade's powerful juxtaposition of political optimism and civil rights clouded by assassination and the war in Viet Nam, or if you want to learn more about this decade of upheaval

and change, please plan to join us. All are welcome! Questions?
Contact **Linda McCord**.

Central Women
Thursday, February 20
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Home of Karen Gravel

We will gather Thursday, February 20 at the home of Karen Gravel. All women of Central are welcome. We will meet at 7 p.m. for drinks and appetizers, followed by dinner (7:30) and a program/conversation (8 to 9:30) facilitated by Karen herself. Karen is a well-established architect with expertise in the restoration, preservation, and rehabilitation of historic buildings and sites. Karen will speak to us about one of the most revered and studied Southern writers, Flannery O'Connor, who spent most of her life in Georgia. Karen will highlight the places Flannery lived in Milledgeville and efforts that have been made to preserve and tell Flannery's story.

Please "sign up" below for food/drink/cash donations as this will be your RSVP. It's very helpful for us to know by Tuesday, February 18 how many people to expect.

Karen's address is 130 Krog Street, NE; Suite D; Atlanta GA 30307. There is a green gate that will be open. Please park anywhere in the parking lot. There are no assigned spaces and parking is free.

See y'all there! Questions? Ask Melanie Bliss at drdbliss@me.com or Karen Gravel at Karen.Gravel@jordaecksargent.com.

SIGN UP TO RSVP

Thirsty Thursdays
Thursday, February 20
7 p.m.
Manuel's Tavern

Central members meet monthly at [Manuel's Tavern](#) for a time of informal fellowship. While this event was initially for Young Professionals, the event is open to all ages. Guests are welcome and no RSVP is required! Manuel's is located at 602 North Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30307.

Questions? Contact **M.E. Davis** at maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com

Matching gift opportunity for OAC's annual fundraiser ends today



We are extremely grateful to Bill Huss who donated a remarkable matching gift in honor of his brother John J. Huss, Jr. Through February 19, every donation (up to \$25,000) to Central Outreach and Advocacy Center will be matched. Even more exciting—your registration for the walk will also be included in the match!

We hope you will join Central Outreach and Advocacy Center for the In Their Shoes 10 Mile Challenge on March 30 immediately following worship. Sign up today and double your impact and make an even greater difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness. Every dollar you contribute, whether through a direct donation or by participating in this powerful event, will have twice the impact in providing IDs, birth certificates, job training, and housing support to those we serve.

This is your chance to make a real difference. Use the button below to register for the walk or to make a donation and join us in creating pathways to stability and hope!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR DONATE](#)

Meal needed for March 19

The Bashor Night Shelter is an ecumenical ministry of hospitality to our homeless brothers that has operated since 1980, providing nightly meals and a safe warm place to sleep. The Mission Committee is seeking Central groups to serve on the following date:

- Dinner for 70 men on Wednesday, March 19

If your group is interested or if you have questions about the details, please contact Chris Sciarone at sciarrone.chris@gmail.com or 404-966-0380.



Sunday Sign-Ups for collecting friendship pads

We still need assistance collecting friendship pads each week. Collection of the friendship folders is an excellent family activity! Please note the need to move easily in both the sanctuary and balcony. You may sign up by clicking [this link](#).

Worship

Sunday, February 23, 2025
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 + Luke 6:27-38
The Rev. Kate Culver preaching

Learn

Issues in Theology: Shakespeare and Theology
Sundays, February 23, and March 23
Greene Room

9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

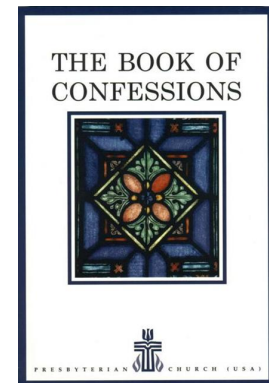
The class began with some introduction on Shakespeare's religious world and continues with "Hamlet" this Sunday, February 23. The class will then break to join Rev. Kershner's series on "Reformed Confessions," on March 2, 9 and 16. The class will pick back up with the other two plays starting March 23. Discussion class led by Tina Sizemore and actress Kessler Catterall.



Class location: the Greene (off of Tull Hall). Questions? Contact Tina Sizemore (tinasizemore@bellsouth.net).

Book of Confessions - Our Family Photo Album
Sundays, March 2, 9, 16
The Parlor
9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

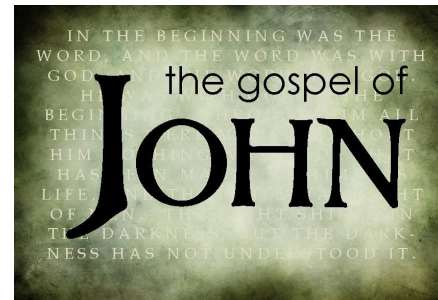
Do you think the Book of Confessions is boring? Did you know we often contradict ourselves? In this special series, taught by Central's Senior Pastor Shannon Kershner, you will discover the family features that are in each confession, and you will learn why this theological work continues to inform who we are as Church. This series will be taught on March 2, 9 and 16.



Class location: The Parlor (off of Tull Hall). Questions? Contact Shanon Kershner (skershner@cpcatlanta.org).

Central Bible Study: The Gospel of John
Begins Sunday, March 23
The Parlor
9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Central Bible Study, a new adult Sunday morning class, will meet for the first time on March 23. Central Bible Study will be a traditional Bible study class - what some would describe as "close examination of Scripture." The verse-by-verse approach will mean that we'll often cover, in a given class session, just one chapter of the Scripture book of interest. We'll use the NRSV translation of the Bible. The approach to Scriptural analysis will be critical in nature, and we'll engage in Scriptural interpretation that reflects our Reformed theology. The first book of the Bible that will be explored by the Central Bible Study class will be the Gospel of John.



Class location: The Parlor (off of Tull Hall).

Give

New Crew Socks Needed

The foot clinic is in need of men's white crew socks that are new (in this case we cannot accept gently used) and more than 50% cotton. If you would like to donate, please drop off your gifts to the church office labeled "for foot clinic." And for all of you creative souls who are drawn to colored and cute socks, please remember we need basic white, mostly cotton men's crew socks. In this case, uniformity helps. If you have questions, please contact ***Martha Crenshaw***.

Humanitarian Response in Israel/Palestine

We have witnessed the millions of people caught in the middle of the devastating conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. This humanitarian crisis is dire, and the loss of human life is unimaginable. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (USA) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of their neighbors. Our biggest concern is the safety and care for those caught in the middle of this conflict and in need of humanitarian aid, no matter their religious beliefs, politics, or nationality.

Click this link to give to Disaster Relief for Israel/Palestine (please note Middle East in the Disaster Supported box).

You can also click here to read more.

If you have any difficulty logging in to your profile or making your online gift within Realm, please contact ***Melissa Johnson***.

Questions about your giving statement? Please contact ***Kristie Johns*** at (404) 601-3128.

Acting boldly and compassionately to serve
people who are hungry, oppressed,
imprisoned or poor.





cpcatlanta.org

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