



# The Central Visitor

A weekly visitor to your home bringing you news from Central Christian Church

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, March 1, 2006

No. 7

## Elderberries to Meet Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup>!

We invite you to come and enjoy lunch with Centrals fellowship group for those at least 55 years young! We will meet at noon on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Disciple Room (because of Great Hall Renovations). This month's menu is Irish Stew, Cornbread and Pineapple Upside-Down Cake. The food is lovingly prepared with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, **Coleen Myers** will share a presentation of the eleven-day mission trip to Guatemala she and Mike participated in during 2002. Traveling with the non-denominational Christian organization, Faith at Work, the 24-person mission team helped with two different projects — building a school in a Maya village and helping at a mission house located on the edge of the Guatemala City dump. Coleen will share slides and stories and test your knowledge of Guatemala! To sign up, please call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. Reservations cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

## Bill Moutray in Concert at Central

**Bill Moutray** will appear in concert in Central's sanctuary on Sunday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m. in a performance he calls *With a Little Help from My Friends*. The program includes show tunes, medleys, spiritual songs and religious classics. This concert promises to be a real crowd pleaser, so invite someone you like to attend with you!



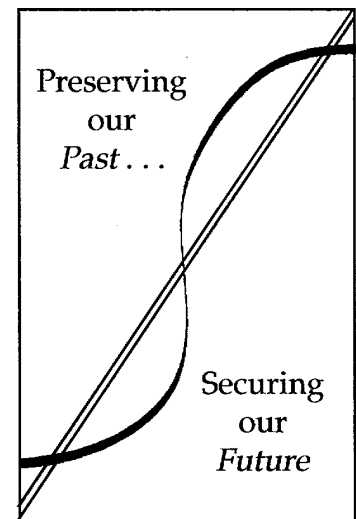
## Church Family Pictorial Directory

Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center or online at [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com) (use the church phone # 217-428-4336) to be included in the 2006 Central Family Pictorial Directory with updated photos of new and familiar faces, updated addresses and phone numbers, a new birthday and anniversary roster all in a handsome hardbound keepsake. Olan Mills Photographers will be here to take pictures for the directory on March 28-29, April 3-4 and May 25-26. Each family pictured will be able to pick the picture for the directory, receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free copy of the directory. Remember, your family will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits and you are under no obligation to buy anything. There are no follow-up sales contacts as a result of your participation in the Church Family Pictorial Directory. Plan now to be a part of the Central Family Album.



**SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2006**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**Lead Us Not Into Temptation...**

Text: Mark 1:9-15  
Gretchen Barron



This Sunday marks the official beginning of Central's 2006-2009 building fund campaign. The climax of the campaign is scheduled on March 26 when the congregation will gather in a single worship service at 10:00 a.m. and present three-year commitments to replace the fifty-year-old roof over the sanctuary and chapel, maintain the leaded glass windows, replace flaking limestone exterior steps, replace the church van with a safer and more accessible vehicle, and provide a state-of-the-art phone system for the church. Ten per cent of all contributions to the campaign will go to local mission partners for their capital needs. Every member of Central will be invited to complete a Giving Card for this three-year effort.

## Youth Column

**Central Youth  
Wednesday, March 8th  
CCC FRIENDS  
5:30- 8 p.m.**

Our new mid-week friendship making ministry meets on Wednesday evenings. Groups for Elementary, Jr. High & High School are offered. Join us this week for supper, worship and growing friendships with each other and with God. Our next Sunday meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**Family Theater Outing  
Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 2 p.m.  
Decatur Park District  
Storyteller Theater's  
Aladdin**

We have a dozen tickets to this wonderful show! Sign up with Pastor Robert. Our own **Jessica Brooks** has a role in the production.

### **Children's Worship Update**

Remember we offer Children's Worship during the 10:45 a.m. worship service for children ages 5-10. Children's Worship does not meet on the First Sunday of each month or during our Summer Schedule. Meet the CW Leaders in the Friendship Center after the Offertory Prayer of Dedication. Children are returned to the Friendship Center at the close of the worship service.

### **Evangelism Seeds**

Invite someone to church this week. It is the most influential way to put people in touch with the world's greatest hero.

## **Gretchen's Gleanings**

With the observance of Ash Wednesday this week, the church begins a new liturgical season, the season of Lent. The word "lent" is actually related to the words "long" and "lengthen" and give reference to the lengthening of the hours of sunlight in each day and we move toward Spring. For centuries, Christians have understood Lent as an emotional and spiritual way to prepare for Easter Day some 40 days later (not counting Sundays) — this year on April 11. We often hear people say they are "giving up" something for Lent — perhaps an enjoyable activity or unhealthy habit. "Oh, this year I'm giving up chocolate for Lent." Or, "this year I'm giving up TV for Lent." We also often hear people say they are "taking on" something for Lent — perhaps a new spiritual discipline or a positive behavior change. "This year during Lent I am going to spend at least 10 minutes every day in prayer." Or, "For Lent this year I am going to begin a new exercise program." Whatever you decide to do for Lent, whether it be "giving up" or "taking on" something, you need to approach it as a way to bring you closer to God and Jesus Christ. This is indeed what a spiritual discipline is — an action on your part which helps you to grow stronger in your walk with God. This season of Lent is actually an invitation to engage in a new way of living that allows you to grow closer to God and to become more in-tune with the Gospel story of death and resurrection — Jesus', and our own. Lent is a time for focusing, for anticipating the news of Easter, the drama of redemption, the story of betrayal, pain, death and the miraculous defeat of death which we celebrate on Easter. So, what "spiritual discipline" will you participate in during the next 40 days? It's a very personal decision, of course. Each of us know deep within ourselves what barriers we need to remove or bridges we need to build to allow us a "closer walk with God". To assist you with this, you might want to check out a list of Lenten Spiritual Practices and suggestions found on our website at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org) and also available in the Friendship Center. The important thing, I think, is that each of us make an intentional and conscious decision to grow closer to God and spiritually stronger as we prepare for the glorious resurrection celebration on Easter.

As one walking the journey with you — *Pastor Gretchen*

## **Week of Compassion Giving Update and Map Information**

Thank you, Central, for your recent gifts of \$2,843 to our annual Week of Compassion Special Offering. Week of Compassion works in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), other denominations through One Great Hour of Sharing and other relief agencies, like Church World Service. Through these partnerships we are reminded that we do not face the world's need alone. Through these partnerships, sustenance and hope is delivered to villages and cities everywhere. You can now see just how wide-spread our response is through Week of Compassion. Check out the new Interactive Week of Compassion map in the Friendship Center. Each week throughout the year, the map will be updated with pins placed in the new locations where WOC has responded, either to disaster relief or development needs. Check it often and by the end of the year, you will be able to see how Central and other congregations have helped to cover the world with compassion. And remember, you can continue to give throughout the year to Week of Compassion as well. Week of Compassion ... around the world — around the year!



### News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Chad & Christine Burrus** on the February 22<sup>nd</sup> birth of their son, **Tucker Allen**. Tucker is also welcomed home by his big brother **Trey**, grandmother **Frances Grizzle**, aunt and uncle **Larry & Janet Thicksten**.

### Central Volunteers Provide Saturday Meal

A dozen volunteers braved one of the coldest days of the winter, prepared and served a hot meal to hungry persons from around Decatur on, Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Good Samaritan Inn. Over 125 persons were served. Central's Hunger Relief Task Force will serve four more meals during 2006 at the Inn. Central volunteers serve at the Inn on the second Monday of every month as well. Contact **Judy Ford** or **Pastor Robert** for details. We also provide sheet cakes for our Monday crew and appreciate donations of cakes as well. Thank you to all of our Central folks who help the area's hungriest persons!

### We are Still Collecting Campbell's Soup Labels!

Don't throw away those soup labels! Woodhaven is continuing to collect Campbell's Soup Labels to use to purchase products from Campbell's, that they could not otherwise afford, for the men and women they serve. In 2005 they were able to purchase several items including a projector for video screenings. Bring your soup labels to the church and put them in the white box on the office window counter. There you will also find a listing of other Best Choice UPC codes that are used.

### Register Your Child for Preschool

Registration for the 2006-07 Preschool year will be held in the Nichols Education Wing on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. for church members and families already enrolled. Open registration, for the public, will be held the following week. If you are interested in registering a child, but are not available during these hours, please call the church (428-4336) and talk with **Jean Pease**, the Preschool Director.

### Don't Forget to Mix Up Your Spare Change for the Mix in '06

Remember to drop your spare change each Sunday in the large jug in the Friendship Center. Your contributions will go to the Mix in '06 scholarship fund, allowing Central women an opportunity to attend this life-changing event this summer. In June, over 5000 women are expected to share together in uplifting mission, energizing fellowship, challenging study and inspiring worship. More information and registration forms are also available.

### Counting On You

#### February 26

Worship Attendance ..... 326  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 80



### Sunday, March 5, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Jason Zimmerman,  
Cellist  
10:45-Anthem-Chancel Choir & Jason  
Zimmerman, Cellist  
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse, Liz Campbell  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School

### Monday (6)

8:00-Wellness Walk  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-CCC Friends, Pastor Robert's  
8:15-Basketball, Webster Cantrell Hall

### Tuesday (7)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
9:00-11:30-Preschool In House  
Registration, Preschool Wing  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room  
1:15-ChristCare, 218  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:30-Bible Study, Coleen & Mike  
Myers' home  
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

### Wednesday (8)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
9:00-11:30-Preschool In House  
Registration, Preschool Wing  
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Disciple Room  
12:00-Central Singers  
1:30-3:00-Low Vision Support, 280  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:00-CADV Meeting, 214  
5:30-7:30-CCC Friends, Disciple Room,  
Point, Rooms 240-280, Parlor

### Thursday (9)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-Bell Choir, 290  
7:00-Chancel Choir  
7:00-PrairieLand Investors, 212

### Friday (10)

8:00-Wellness Walk

### Saturday (11)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

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## Serving Schedule—March 5, 2006

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Brett Swallow, Tom Spry

### Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Kevin Otis & Cindy Soebbing

### Deacons:

8:15 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Tina Canfield, Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Joe Lewis, Gail Prince, Larry Prince, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox, Rebecca Smart

10:45 - Team 2 - Richard Ward, Capt., Cathy Ash, Jim Ash, Neil Baird, Debbie Bateman, Philip Bateman, Azalee Berner, Warren Berner, Dale Ford, Judy Ford, Alex Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Ernestine Mrozinski, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

### Ushers:

8:15 - Team 1 - Bob Wells, Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Fogerson Ropp

10:45 - Team 6 - Maxine Koenig, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

### Greeters:

8:15 - Evelyn & Max Sperry, Al & Chris Fagin

10:45 - Bruce & Carol Stoddard, Azalee & Warren Berner

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Carol & John Graham

### Parish Nurse:

Liz Campbell

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Sarah Funk

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Larry Pepper

### Preparation of Communion:

Becky & John Flanders, Pamela Bednar, Joan Stewart, Mary Waldmier

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

### March 8 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

### Hosts:

Mar. 6 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman  
12:30-4:00 - Maxine Koenig

Mar. 7 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling  
12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford

Mar. 8 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith  
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Mar. 9 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Mar. 10 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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**HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG**  
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Charles Watkins ..... Senior Pastor  
Robert Bushey ..... Pastor for Children Youth and Families  
Gretchen Barron ..... Pastor for Evangelism and Membership  
C. William Nichols ..... Senior Minister Emeritus  
Jim Whitaker ..... Pastor for Visitation  
Don Martin ..... Minister of Music  
Leslie Peart ..... Organist  
Valerie Rozanski ..... Administrative Secretary  
Pat Beals ..... Church Secretary  
Sue Burkham, Jane Latshaw ..... Parish Nurse Coordinators  
Katie Beal ..... Childcare Coordinator  
Joanne Frady, Sarah & Debra Fulk ..... Childcare Providers  
Shelby Larrick, Bryan Rutherford ..... Childcare Providers  
Jean Pease ..... Preschool Director  
Trudy Garland, Shelly Messmore ..... Preschool Teachers  
Kay Villarreal, Robin White ..... Preschool Teachers  
Rudi Descaro ..... Custodian  
David Flanders ..... Custodian  
Dean Hadden ..... Custodian  
Charles Wallace ..... Custodian

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