



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, May 3, 2006

No. 16

Habitat House Ground Breaking



Tuesday, May 2nd ground was broken for the new Central Christian Church Habitat House #50 at 1735 North 28th Street! In March, our congregation gave \$40,000 to Habitat for the new construction of this house. This gift represents 10% of funds contributed to the 2003-2006 capital campaign. Present at the ground breaking ceremony were four of Central's ministers; **Dean Simcox**, Habitat President; the homeowner, Unity Henry; and several other Central members and Habitat supporters and volunteers.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, May 10th!

We invite you to come and enjoy lunch with Central's fellowship group for those at least 55 years young! We will meet at noon on Wednesday, May 10th in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Baked Pork Loin & Dressing, California Blend Vegetables, Jello Salad, Rolls & Butter and Dessert. The food is lovingly prepared with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, our own **Warren Berner** will entertain us with a program entitled, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way...!* Come prepared to laugh and maybe even tell a few jokes yourself! 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, May 8th, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

Spring Fashions – Central Style

Our 8th Annual Sarah's Daughter's Banquet will be Friday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the newly renovated Great Hall. You won't want to miss this evening which promises to be packed with great food and fellowship and a fashion show with styles from Kohl's and some of Central's own models. Tickets for *Spring Fashions – Central Style* are available in the Friendship Center on Sunday morning or by calling the church office. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children (ages 2-10). All women and girls (mothers, daughters, grandmas, sisters, aunts, cousins, friends) are invited and encouraged to attend.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Good Shepherding

Text: John 10:11-18

Charles Watkins

Help the Nominating Committee

This month the Nominating Committee begins its annual task of selecting leaders for our congregational life. You can help in two ways. This Sunday and next, you can fill out a suggestion form, offering for the committee's consideration the names of those you think would be excellent elders, deacons, trustees, or honorary officers emeriti. On the back of the form is a list of those currently serving, so you need not nominate them.

The second way you can help is to give serious and prayerful consideration to any request you receive from the Nominating Committee this summer to serve in a position of leadership and responsibility for the life of our congregation over the next three years.

So, fill out the form that will be in your worship bulletin this Sunday and next, and be prepared to say "yes" when the Nominating Committee asks you to serve God and your church!

Silent Auction Ends this Sunday!

The Fifth Annual Silent Auction in support of Dove, Inc. is set to end this Sunday, at 10:45 a.m. The catalogue of great entertainment packages, Cardinal's Tickets for Father's Day Weekend, a beautiful hand quilted nativity wall hanging, an Illini Pullover, and more is available. All services and items have been donated for your bidding. Place your final bids this week.

Youth Column

**Central Youth
Sunday, May 7th
Central Youth
Grades 6-12
5-7 p.m.**

Our trip to the Scovill Driving Range was rescheduled due to stormy weather. Central Youth will meet at the church at 5 p.m. and travel to the Scovill Driving Range. Lessons on choosing and swinging clubs will be available for the novice and buckets of golf balls will be available for driving fun for the skilled golfer. We will go for ice cream at Kaleidoscoops afterwards. Come and try something new or practice for the summer season and bring your friends!

Wednesday, May 10th Final CCC FRIENDS

CCC FRIENDS will meet on Wednesday, May 10th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This is our last CCC Friends meeting for the spring.

Wednesday/Thursday Night Specials Back for 2006

Central Youth (grades entering 6th - finishing 12th) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, beginning June 22nd. A full schedule will be available soon. We will enjoy supper off the grill, basketball, volleyball, badminton, croquet, bocce ball, movies and swimming. Central Youth will not meet on Sunday afternoons from June through August.

Charles's Column

Did you miss me Sunday? I am writing this column in Chicago last Saturday as I attend the semi-annual Board of Trustees meeting of the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago. I think I have told you before about this amazing institution established in 1894 by visionary Disciples leaders who believed that our church did not need to re-invent the wheel. Or rather, they believed that we did not have to go out and develop our own world class theological seminaries. All we had to do was to move in next door to a world class theological faculty, provide a place for Disciples seminarians to live there along with scholarship assistance to attend the school, and reap the rewards of a well educated clergy for our congregations. Disciples deployed this strategy at Yale, Vanderbilt, University of Chicago, and at Claremont, California.

The Disciples Divinity House (DDH) at the University of Chicago is a monumental gothic limestone structure on 57th Street in the heart of the Hyde Park campus across from the faculty club and a block away from the Divinity School which is one of the premier centers for theological scholarship in this hemisphere. The DDH building was built in 1928, and guess what! I'm on the House Committee (read building committee), overseeing the facilities—pipe organ, bathrooms, kitchen, tuck-pointing, phone/internet system, plumbing, electrical, roof—you know the drill. And so do I!

The Board of Trustees does its work of overseeing an institution that is supported in part by your contributions to the Disciples Mission Fund and in particular by the Thanksgiving Special Day Offering which is divided among two dozen Disciples colleges, universities and theological seminaries. DDH is one of our Disciples seminaries even though the faculty that teaches our students here is employed by the University of Chicago Divinity School. In return, DDH is the largest single source of tuition funds for the Divinity School! That is, we cooperate to develop capable leaders for the church. Any Disciples student who meets the quite substantial entrance requirements of the Divinity School qualifies for a full tuition scholarship from DDH and a rent-free room in DDH. We provide 23 student rooms in our, or rather, your building, and any that are not occupied by Disciples are rented to ecumenical students from other traditions.

A highlight of each Trustees' meeting is the opportunity to meet the students, some of whom are preparing for careers in theological scholarship, others of whom are preparing for pastoral or institutional ministry, and others of whom are preparing for theologically informed careers in social work, law, medicine, or other disciplines in the university.

In previous years, I have enjoyed visiting with Spencer Dew, a Ph.D. student who was a youth in the congregation I served in Kentucky and who was wounded in a restaurant suicide bombing in Jerusalem three years ago. This year, I look forward to seeing **Tabitha Knerr** who was a child here at Central and is now in her first year at DDH. I wish you could be here to see the remarkable young women and men who are preparing themselves for professional leadership in our church. They and we have a lot to be proud of! Congratulations, Central! You're here and there doing good that you don't even imagine you are doing!

Charles Watkins

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Helen Ward** and family following the April 27th death of her sister-in-law, *Ruth Ward* of Normal, Illinois.

Ladies Night out Tuesday, May 16th!

All Central women and friends are invited to join us for Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the New International Buffet in Mt. Zion (near Dollar Tree). As always, fun, fellowship, food, laughter and door prizes will abound! The buffet includes a large selection of salads, desserts, American and Asian favorites. Bring your grown daughter, or mother or friend for a great evening out. Sign up this Sunday at the Women's Ministry table in the Friendship Center.

Evangelism Seeds

Do you know that something like 90% of the people who join a church do so because someone they knew and trusted invited them to come to worship? Who do you know that might receive strength, hope and blessing from the fellowship, worship, study and mission opportunities found at Central? Invite them today and help put them in touch with a life-giving relationship with God.

Pictorial Directory May Photography Sessions

If you missed the March or April photo sessions, here is your chance to be included in the 2006 Pictorial Directory! Sessions are scheduled for May 24-26th from 2-8 p.m. You may make a reservation at the table in the Friendship Center this Sunday or online at: www.signup.olanmills.com (use the church phone # 217-428-4336). Remember, each family photographed will be able to choose the pose to be included in the directory, will receive a free 8x10 portrait, and will receive a free copy of the 2006 Pictorial Directory. There is no obligation to buy anything.

Sunday School Class Pictures

The Public Relations Department has scheduled a photography session with **Wayne** and **Donna Rutherford** for all Sunday School Classes and Acolytes in the Great Hall on Sunday, May 14th beginning at 9:15 a.m. and continuing during the Sunday School Hour. The photos will be published in the 2006 Pictorial Directory. A detailed schedule will be available for your class this Sunday.

Diaconate Reminder

Deacons, if you haven't turned in your \$5, please mail it now (checks made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**. It helps support the Senior Members Luncheon, which is this Saturday!



Sunday, May 7, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Don Martin, Baritone
10:45 Offertory-Chancel Choir; Connie Bordner, Soprano
10:45 Anthem-
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse, Cindy Soebbing
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
12:15-Fellowship Dept., Volunteer Room
5:00-Youth, Scovill Driving Range

Monday (8)

8:00-Wellness Walk
9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
5:30-CCC Friends, Bushey house
6:00-MCCOCP, Disciple Room

Tuesday (9)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-ChristCare, 218
5:30-7:30-Baby Talk Program, Disciple Room

Wednesday (10)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
10:30-Preschool Mother's Day Tea, Disciple Room
12:00-Elderberries, Great Hall
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-CCC Friends
6:30-Shepherding Department, Volunteer Room

Thursday (11)

9:45-Preschool Mother's Day Tea, Disciple Room & Great Hall
10:00-Alanon, 212
12:15-Preschool Mother's Day Tea, Disciple Room
5:30-Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-PrairieLand Investors, 212
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (12)

8:00-Wellness Walk
12:00-4:00-Dove Program Workshop, Disciple Room
6:30-Sarah's Daughters Banquet, Great Hall

Saturday (13)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room
4:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Stephanie Chick & Derek Cunningham

Serving Schedule—May 7, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Kevin Wilmot, Carol Graham

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Bruce Williams, Pat Ash

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Sherri Hood, Paula Hovey, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, David Shields, Max Sperry
10:45 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Katie Beal, Mark Beal, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Jon French, Dee Hill, Louellen Lusk, Karen McFadin, David Miller, Katie Miller, Janice Mitchell, Alex Otis, Andrew Rutherford, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Ruby Agnew, Betty Beebe, Willie Birkhead, Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos
10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Marilyn Blank, Bob Harmon, Billie Harmon

Greeters:

8:15 - Norma Mason, Barbara Beyer, Greg & Jo Carter
10:45 - Neil & Karen Baird, Larry & Betty Chapman

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Parish Nurse:

Cindy Soebbing

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos, Julia Funk
10:45 - Daniel Hinze

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter
10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Jan & Ron Dobbs, Don & Virginia Swallow

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot
10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

May 10 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

Hosts:

May 8 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis
May 9 9:00-12:30 - Carol Charlton
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer
May 10 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward
May 11 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling
12:30-4:00 - Janet Gray
May 12 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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
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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Counting On You

April 30

Worship Attendance 283
Sunday School Attendance 79



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(Disciples of Christ)
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