



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, September 21, 2005

No. 38

Czech Pianist in Concert at Central

Radoslav Kvapil will play Central's Steinway piano in concert on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. He is a recording and concert artist who has performed at major music festivals and concert halls throughout the world and has appeared frequently on radio and television throughout Europe. His concert at Central will include works by Robert Schumann, Bedrich Smetana, Antonin Dvorák, and Franz Liszt.

This concert is free and open to the public and is presented in memory of **Lyle & Minnie Campbell**.

Reconciliation Offering

Reconciliation is all about stamping out racism...here in Decatur and throughout our great melting-pot of a nation. It is painful to think of the suffering that our neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi have been dealing with this month. It is cruel and unjust to realize that the largest percentage of the people who died there were from poorer cultures and had no way of escaping the terror. Please, God, don't let it be true that the people in the Superdome that first week with no food, water or sanitation facilities were left there for so long because they were largely African American!

The Reconciliation Mission is committed to helping the church see how racism infects our institutions and way of life. More importantly, Reconciliation is committed to helping us learn what we can *do* about it. The theme for the Mission this year is again "Sow Reconciliation. Reap Justice." Let's all work to eliminate racism at its roots.

Please use the envelope that you receive with the letter from a member of the Christian Action/Community Service Committee this week as an opportunity to "speak-up with your pocketbook".

Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Stephen Ministry!

♦ "I like being a Stephen Minister. It is important to be able to reach out, to be there for someone just to talk to." (**Ruby Agnew**).

♦ "Stephen Ministry offers a chance to serve. It is so rewarding to be part of a caring ministry." (**Pat Ash**).

♦ "When you give you get back so much more" is so true of Stephen Ministry." (**Linda Kuhns**).

These are just a few of the things that our Stephen Ministers are saying about their involvement in this one-on-one caring ministry. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister, we invite you to our "Taste and See" Orientation Session on Wednesday, September 28th at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Come and meet other Stephen Ministers, watch a video and ask questions! Come also and share in some delicious treats that we're preparing especially for you. Stephen Ministry is a great way to show God's love and grow your faith! Come, taste and see on the 28th!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2005

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Generations of Generosity

Text: Psalm 145:1-7

Charles Watkins

Generations of Generosity

Central's annual fall stewardship campaign is moving toward Consecration Day on October 9 when each member and friend will have the opportunity to present in worship a giving card estimating financial support for the church in 2006. This congregation has been generous for generations, and now has the opportunity to continue that tradition for another year. At noon on October 9, all are invited to lunch in the Great Hall following the second service.

Holiday Card Workshop

We invite you to join with other Central folks and friends for an evening of making holiday cards on Monday, October 3rd in the Disciple Room. Come when you can and stay as long as you like, anytime between 5:00-8:00 p.m. You will need to bring your own supplies and materials and a finger food for a shared supper. If you have holiday or Christmas rubber stamps and would be willing to let others use them, please bring them as well. We will also have a swap table available where you can place items you no longer want and receive something new from someone else. There will be lots of ideas and samples for inspiration. Childcare will be provided for young children in the nursery. Come and share in the fellowship and fun! Sign up in the Friendship Center today!

News for Children & Youth

Children's Worship This Sunday

Children's Worship will be available on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of each month during the 10:45 a.m. service. Children ages 5 yrs.-10 yrs. are invited to a special worship time after the Offertory Prayer during the 10:45 a.m. service. Children are to meet our CW Leaders in the Friendship Center.

SYNAGO Begins Wednesday September 28th

Central Youth grades 9-12 will begin a new mid-week group called SYNAGO which will begin on Wednesday, September 28th at 7 p.m. SYNAGO will be led by **Zach Martin** and **Shelby Larrick**. We will discover how our faith can help us everyday. Come and give SYNAGO a try!

Summit 2005 One People, One Voice, One Praise

Information and registration forms for Summit 2005 are available at the church office. Summit is a huge regional youth assembly for 6th-12th grades (age 12+) and is scheduled for November 18-25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. We have booked rooms for 20 people! This is a great event to bring your friends to. Get your forms today and get ready for Summit!

Central Breakfast Café Menu

Everyone is welcome to join us for breakfast this Sunday from 9 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Donation baskets will be available to offset the cost of the breakfast. The Central Breakfast Cafe menu includes: French toast sticks, sausage, yogurt, fruit, cereal, milk, juice and coffee.

Charles's Column

The drought on the prairie this summer has been devastating for many farmers who work so hard to feed the world. As bad as it has been around here, it's been far worse north and west of us. As you go toward the Illinois River, you just wonder how those folks are going to come out at the end of harvest, or even whether the high cost of fuel will make it impractical to bring the crop in at all.

There are for most of us times of spiritual drought like that. There are times when prayer seems impossible, when the soul is dry and shriveled up like a field of corn that never got a break after the first rains of spring. Often these times follow a real crisis in our lives, a time when we didn't seem to get the help we prayed for, a time when nothing that we attempted to do to get connected to God's will seemed to work. Then comes a time of hopelessness and wondering just what's the use any way. But sadness and despair never lead to anything better, so eventually, we decide to try again to find God.

Still prayer seems impossible. That's when we need a little help from beyond ourselves. Often it helps, when you cannot pray yourself, to pray prayers that others have written, starting with the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray. When you pray the Lord's Prayer as if it were the first time you ever prayed it, when you pray it sincerely and not out of routine, sometimes it opens spiritual doors that have seemed closed.

Another help can be found in the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Scriptures. As you read (or pray) one psalm after another, it is amazing to see printed on the page exactly the prayer you would pray if you could. Certainly there are prayers there that don't fit you or your situation right now, though they probably will fit at another time. Still it is spiritually therapeutic to step into the stream of prayer that runs back three thousand years.

Then there are other devotional resources, books of prayers and devotions by favorite authors. I am always on the lookout for such resources both for myself and for others who talk to me. On a recent pilgrimage to the St. Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana, I purchased a book of prayers collected by the alumni of the seminary there. Here is a prayer from that collection by Father Thomas Merton:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Charles Watkins

General Assembly Highlights

Come and watch Fred Harris' message "Jesus Calls Us to Renewal in the Congregation" from the General Assembly in Portland and learn about Disciples' New Church Establishment in the Great Hall this Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

News From the Pews....

Roy O. Schilling proudly announces that his grandson, **Matthew Schilling Bryant**, son of **Michael** and **Susan Bryant**, received his Bachelor's Degree from Illinois State University in June and is now teaching history/government classes and is assisting with the coaching of the Freshmen football and baseball teams in the Effingham High School.

Congratulations to **Roy O. Schilling** on being named the ISU Homecoming King by the Alumni Association.

Proud grandparents, **John & Jan Baird** announce the September 18th birth of their granddaughter, **Celeste Alana Price**. Parents are **Mary Ellen & Christopher Price**.

If I Had a Hammer!

"If I had a hammer" or so the song goes, "I'd hammer in the morning. I'd hammer in the evening ... all over this land. I'd hammer out danger. I'd hammer out a warning. I'd hammer out the love between my brothers and my sisters. All over this land." If you have a day to give, and a hammer or a paint roller or a drill or simply two willing hands, you can help "hammer" out the love between your brothers and sisters at two separate Miracle Days on October 1st (in Chicago) and October 8th (in Carbondale) as Disciples from across the region gather together to help make repairs, construct friendships, build dreams and participate in miracles! Although the early registration deadline has passed, we will still take volunteers right up until the day. We are, of course, also still receiving financial donations to help provide building supplies and materials. See **Pastor Gretchen** for more information.

Note of Thanks Received

I want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and support given to me while convalescing. Hope to see you all soon. *-Phyllis Davis*

Storybook Prison Ministry Orientation

Another Storybook Ministry orientation meeting has been set for Monday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in Room 280. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, you are invited to attend. Storybook Ministry is done in cooperation with Lutheran Social Services. Four times each year, trained volunteers work with inmates at the Decatur Women's Correctional Facility to help them choose, read and record stories to send to their children. For more information or an application form, please speak with **Pastor Gretchen**. You must attend an orientation session before you are allowed into the prison to work with this ministry. We are also accepting donations to help purchase children's books. Write "storybook ministry" on the memo line of your check and send it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Now is the Time to Register for the Women's Retreat!

Have you turned in your registration yet? The deadline is quickly approaching to sign up for our second annual fall retreat, October 21-22 at Camp One-Way (near Mt. Auburn). Our retreat leader is Claudia Grant, a nationally recognized Disciples leader. With sensitivity and spiritual insight she will guide us through the theme of *Dream On, Sisters!* The registration fee of \$60 is due at registration. An additional gift of any amount will help subsidize program costs or provide scholarships which are available upon request. Attendance is not limited to Central members. Invite a friend or family member to enjoy this event with you. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 5th.



Sunday, September 25, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Central Singers
10:45 Offertory-Women's Chorus
8:15 Anthem-Central Singers
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:30-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:00-Central Cafe Breakfast, Great Hall
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
6:30-8:45-Play Rehearsal

Monday (26)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
6:30-CCC Bowling, Pla Mor Lanes
6:30-Peace & Justice Meeting, 207
6:30-8:45-Play Rehearsal

Tuesday (27)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-ChristCare, 218
6:30-MCCOCP Meeting, Disciple Rm.
6:30-NWRAPS Meeting, Great Hall
6:30-Public Relations, Volunteer Room
6:30-8:45-Play Rehearsal

Wednesday (28)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Taste of Stephen Ministry, Parlor
7:00-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

Thursday (29)

10:00-Alanon, 212
6:00-Spiritual Life Bible Study,
Disciple Room
6:30-8:45-Play Rehearsal
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (30)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

Saturday (October 1)

2:00-5:00-Play Rehearsal
5:30-Sanctuary Wedding, Kyndra Bell
& Scott Kramer

Counting On You

September 18

Worship Attendance 307
Sunday School Attendance 73

Serving Schedule—September 25, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Cindy Soebbing, Kevin Otis

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Elder Randy Brooks

Decatur Memorial: Elder Bruce Williams

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 1 - Chris Fagin, Capt., Tina Canfield, Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Sally Force, Gene Garver, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Bob Hoaglin, Joe Lewis, John Paradee, Gail 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, Brett Swallow, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Karen Thomas, Kathy Thornton

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 9 - Bruce, Carol, Allison, Jessica, & Maggie Stoddard

Greeters:

8:15 - Debbie Seaberg, Roe Skidmore, David & Connie Shields

10:45 - Pamela Ferguson, Marylu Lyman, Andy & Theresa Fulk

Children's Worship:

 Katie Powers

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Bill & Mary Alice Rule

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Joshua Bushey, Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Charlie & Juanita Reynolds, Yvonne Purcell, Jan Sperry, Nancy Taylor

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

September 28 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Patt Kuhns, Sara Field

Hosts:

Sept. 26 9:00-12:30 - Sara Field
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Sept. 27 9:00-12:30 - Doris Little
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Sept. 28 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Sept. 29 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Sept. 30 9:00-12:30 - Florence Bolin
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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, Janet Langston Preschool Teachers
Shelly Messmore, Kay Villarreal Preschool Teachers
Robin White Preschool Teacher
Rudi Descaro Custodian
David Flanders Custodian
Dean Hadden Custodian
Charles Wallace Custodian

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