



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, October 18, 2006

No. 42

## **An Inspiring Beginning**

Last Sunday morning, many of Central's families streamed down the center aisle in worship to present their 2007 Giving Cards before God in worship. By noon, the church had received 154 giving cards showing that members and friends expect to give \$369,250 next year for the operating budget to support Central's mission and ministries.

The next step in this campaign is to reach out to those who have not yet had an opportunity to complete an estimate of giving card. Look for yours in the mail today or tomorrow, and return it quickly to show your solidarity and partnership with those who are giving their best for God's work through our church.

## **Chancel Choir Dinner and Jamboree**

Please mark your calendars for Saturday November 4 at 6:00 p.m. for a great time in the Great Hall. You will be served a dinner of pulled pork and all the fixin's. You will be joined at your table by choir members who will join you in the sing-a-long songs.

We will take a musical tour from New York to Colorado singing songs from several different musical styles including Early American, Cowboy songs and John Denver favorites. We will be led in singing by **Manley Mallard** of Millikin University and a group of musicians that are sure to please. There will also be a guest appearance by **Joe Dowell** who in 1961 had a number 1 hit called *Wooden Heart*.

Please invite your friends to enjoy this casual and fun evening in the newly renovated Great Hall and experience the new stage with all its possibilities.

Tickets will be available from Choir members, in the Friendship Center on Sunday, and at the office. Contact **Don Martin** for more information.

## **Flu Vaccine Offered November 14**

The Macon County Health Dept. is again offering flu and pneumonia vaccinations at Central on Tuesday, November 14 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## **Dorcas Group Travels to Hickory Point**

The women of Dorcas will go on a field trip this month! Hickory Point Christian Village and **Norma Mason** will be hosting Dorcas and any interested Central women on **October 24 at 7:00 p.m.** at 565 W. Marion in Forsyth for a program entitled "*Not Your Mother's Nursing Home*." Come for a short tour and presentation to learn how the baby boomer generation is becoming a force to demand better care for their parents—and for themselves as they approach old age—in a movement called "culture change."

That evening we will kick off our outreach fundraising project, as well as make preparations for the November Soup/Pie Day and the annual December Christmas Brunch. There will be a box available to collect small toiletry items for donation to local agencies. See you there!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

**Perspective: The Wider View**

Text: Job 38:1-7; 34-41

Charles Watkins

## **All Church Hayride**

Central members and friends are invited to the all-church Hayride, this Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We'll gather at 4:00 p.m. and eat around 5:00 p.m. at Hayrides & More in Blue Mound. This annual event always promises good food, fun and fellowship! The cost is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$15 per family. This includes the hayride, hotdogs, buns, s'mores, condiments, drinks and table service. Bring a dinner item or munchie to share. It can get pretty cold on the hayride, so dress appropriately. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday or call the church office, 428-4336.

## **Millikin Choirs to Present**

### **Concerts This Sunday, October 22**

At **2:00 p.m.** Millikin Men, Women's Ensemble and Chamber Chorale

At **4:00 p.m.** University Choir and University Women

The choirs of Millikin University consistently present excellent programs of interesting and diverse repertoire. The quality of sound and superb musicianship creates a very pleasing concert experience. Invite your friends to this wonderful event.

**Central Youth  
Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Youth Sunday  
Music Rehearsal**

Youth instrumentalists and vocalists will rehearse this Sunday beginning at 9:15 a.m. We should be finished by 9:45 a.m.

**HAYRIDE!**

Central Youth are encouraged to attend the All Church Hayride & Weiner Roast at Hayrides & More in Blue Mound. The fun begins at 4 p.m. Call Pastor Robert 428-4336 if you need a ride!

**Youth Sunday  
JOY!  
October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Central Youth will lead our morning worship services on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme is JOY! Youth grades 6-12 will lead the liturgy and youth grades 3-5 are invited to help with ushering and greeting. Youth participating in the service should be at the church by 7:30 a.m. Youth serving as ushers and greeters should be at the church by 7:45 a.m. We will gather for a pizza lunch following second service.

**Coming Events**

November 10-12<sup>th</sup>  
Regional Assembly  
Including a Pre-Assembly Event at  
the Field Museum  
Speak to Pastor Robert  
for more details.

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>  
National Hunger & Homelessness  
Awareness Week  
Box City**

Central youth will spend the night in cardboard boxes on the parking lot of Grace United Methodist Church. This event is sponsored by the Homeless Council Continuum of Care. More details to come.

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving Basket Project**  
We will join with other youth to help fill 3000 Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need in our community.

**Charles's Column**

I wish last Saturday's Elders' Retreat had been held in a large room where every member of Central Christian Church could see and hear all that was said. It would have been tremendously uplifting and encouraging for you to see the seriousness and dedication with which our elders are pursuing their responsibility to be in "unceasing prayer" for you, for our church, and for the world.

Each month this year at the monthly meeting of the elders under the chairmanship of **Connie Bordner**, in addition to routine business, reviewing the prayer concerns list, and engaging in a circle of shared prayer, the elders have been studying various aspects, attitudes, and practices of prayer.

Some have been helpful, even profound, and some a little silly like the day I attempted to outline and explicate The Lord's Prayer in eight minutes. Still, the awareness of the centrality of prayer has pervaded all of the elders' gatherings this year.

The Elders' Retreat last Saturday was no exception. From a hastily brainstormed list of possible topics related to prayer, the elders responded to a poll which narrowed the choices to their top three: praying with others, hindrances and difficulties with prayer, and creative brooding.

After a poetic and worshipful introduction to the day by Pastor **Don Martin**, Elder **Lois Whitaker** led the first section on praying with others. As you may have noticed in each Sunday bulletin, any one who wishes to pray with an elder is invited to the library just off the sanctuary following each service. How does one pray with another person? Lois's broad experience and deep understanding provided insight and inspiration and some helpful correction on this topic. Then the next day, an elder suggested maybe she should be preaching instead of me! I couldn't disagree.

The second section was led by Pastor **Bill Nichols**. Would you like to meet someone who has personally faced every obstacle and hindrance to prayer? Pastor Bill led us in a moving review of how those difficulties we all experience in prayer from time to time can be faced and prayed through.

The last section was mine, since no one else would own up to "creative brooding" on the list. I took the four styles of communication that we teach to young people in Central's *Prepare* program for those getting ready for marriage, and I suggested that you and God are a couple, and that you share those same four styles of communication. Style Four, the most fully self-disclosive and intimate form of communication is "creative brooding," and it seemed to me that the elders present understood it mighty well.

You have selected deeply spiritual and thoughtful elders to be the spiritual leaders of this congregation. If you could have seen them in worship and contemplation last Saturday, you would be proud that you have chosen so well and that they love you so much.

*Charles Watkins*

**Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now!**

Just two weeks remain to order your Holiday Poinsettias! We are selling them as a fund raiser for future mission trips. The Poinsettias are grown at a local greenhouse. Each plant is in a 6 ½ " pot with a decorative wrap and beautiful handmade, wired bow. Plants are available in red, pink, white, Monet (blush) and marble and sell for \$12.50 each. Order forms are now available in the Friendship Center and will be accepted through October 22<sup>nd</sup> Payment must accompany the order. The plants will be available for pick-up the first Sunday of December. For more information, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Patt & George Kuhns** and family following the October 10<sup>th</sup> death of Patt's brother, *Donald E. March*, in Scottsdale, AZ.

Congratulations to **Jared Carter**, son of **Greg & Jo Carter** and a senior at MacArthur High School who was recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar by the Decatur Public Schools District #61 Board recently. Four students from Decatur were recognized as being in the top 5% of the 1.4 million students who entered the contest nationally! Congrats Jared!

## Central's Women are Invited to Explore "Circles of Growth"

Women and Friends of Central are invited to our 2007 Winter Retreat, February 22-23 at Camp One-Way (near Niantic). Our retreat leader will be Sylvia Mill, Associate Regional Minister in Indiana, who brings many years of experience and great insight into issues of spirituality and community and global concerns. Through our theme, *Circles of Growth*, we will explore our own spiritual journey which, like growth rings on a tree, tells the story of our lives and ways we can reach out, from our abundance, to make a difference in the world. The cost for the 24-hour retreat is \$75, which includes all meals, lodging and program expense. Scholarship assistance is available. Registration forms will be available soon. Mark your calendars now.

## Mission Trip Informational Meeting

We invite you to join us on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for an information meeting on the 2007 Mission Trips to the hurricane affected New Orleans area. Pastors Lonnie and Vicki Southern, from Davis Memorial Christian Church in Taylorville, will share stories and pictures from their recent trip to the area. Find out more information and ask questions as you make your decision to participate. Our trips are scheduled for March 10-18 and June 23-July 1, 2007. Both groups will travel to the New Orleans area to assist individual families with the reconstruction of their homes. Tasks may include roofing, dry wall installation, painting, general cleanup and more. There will be a job for you to do, regardless of your physical ability or knowledge/experience. Cost per participant will be \$250 to cover travel, lodging and meal expenses, and scholarship will be available. You will also be responsible for purchasing your own meals during travel times. Look for the trip information packs available in the Friendship Center soon and plan to join on October 24<sup>th</sup> as we learn more about this mission opportunity.

## Note of Thanks Received

Donna Dash and the Bill Bass family wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of Central. Your cards, memorial contributions, kind words, and prayers after the August 25<sup>th</sup> loss of our mother, Etta Dash, have been a source of comfort to us all. Thank you for your Christian care and love!



## Sunday, October 22, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Central Singers;  
Marilyn Ward, Piano  
10:45 Offertory-Men's Chorus; Becky  
Van Meter, Piano  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
2:00-Millikin Concert I, Sanctuary  
4:00-Millikin Fall Concert II, Sanctuary  
4:00-All-Church Hayride, Blue Mound

## Monday (23)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

## Tuesday (24)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
1:15-POP ChristCare, 218  
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290  
5:30-Hurricane Task Force,  
Volunteer Room  
6:00-Young Adults, Bushey's house  
6:30-New Orleans Recovery Trip  
Planning Meeting, Friendship Center  
7:00-Dorcas, home of Brenda  
Tankersley  
7:00-NWRAPS, Great Hall

## Wednesday (25)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room  
5:30-Personnel Dept., Parlor  
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 280  
6:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room  
6:30-CACS Dept., Disciple Room  
7:15-Preschool Board, 290

## Thursday (26)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:30-ChristCare, 290  
5:00-Job Study, Great Hall  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (27)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

## Evangelism Seeds

*"Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light."* (Norman B. Rice) Reach out this week and invite someone you know to a church activity or to worship. You just never know how your simple invitation may bring light and hope into their world!

**Serving Schedule—October 22, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Mary Jane Linton, Larry Chapman

**Elders Serving Hospital Communion:**

**St. Mary's Hospital:** Linda Kuhns

**Decatur Memorial:** Randy Brooks

**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, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford

**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 - Bill & Mary Alice Rule

10:45 - Judson & Jean Pease, Bob & Mary Jane Linton

**Parish Nurse:** Lucy Acheson

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Gary & Penny Rutherford

**Acolytes:**

8:15 - Brad Munos, Julia Funk

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Keith Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

Carroll & Doris Little, Connie Ogden, Jan Patrick, Connie Schabowski

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

**October 25 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Sara Field, Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

Oct. 23 9:00-12:30 - Sara Field

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Oct. 24 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 25 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Oct. 26 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 27 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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, Debra Fulk ..... Childcare Providers  
 Shelby Larrick, Kaylene Beal ..... Childcare Providers  
 Shelly Messmore ..... Preschool Director  
 Trudy Garland, Janet Langston ..... Preschool Teachers  
 Wendy Jalley, 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**

**October 15**

Worship Attendance ..... 325

Sunday School Attendance ..... 78



**Central Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
 650 West William Street  
 Decatur, IL 62522-2326

PERIODICAL  
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