



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, November 15, 2006

No. 46

## Spirit of Christmas 2006

Preparations are under way for Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2006. Plan now to participate in this wonderful outreach ministry by either "adopting" one or more persons to share your spirit of giving with gifts that you provide, or by giving a cash donation to the program by marking your check made payable to the church with *Spirit of Christmas*. We are anticipating sharing with 100 children and adults from Webster-Cantrell Hall, Decatur Township Assistance, the Phoenix II alternative school and Hope Academy. Gift tags will be available in the Friendship Center beginning Sunday, November 19th. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, no later than Sunday, December 10th when they will be dedicated during our morning worship.

## Hanging of the Greens

The annual service for decking the hall at Central will be on Sunday, November 26 at 4:30 p.m. All members and friends are invited to join in this service which usually lasts less than one hour and features many musical selections of the season and readings about the decorations as they are placed in the sanctuary.

## Children's Christmas Workshop, December 9th

The Christian Education Department is sponsoring a Children's Christmas Workshop on Saturday, December 9th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for children ages 3 yrs.-11 yrs. Children will be able to make Christmas gifts for their parents and siblings. Elves and helpers will be available to assist the children with their projects. Santa will also stop by for a visit. The cost for the workshop is \$5 per child. Plans are being made for a Parent's Day Out, on a donation basis, for children birth to 11 yrs. beginning at noon and running until 4 p.m. Mark your calendar today and watch for your chance to register for the workshop in the Friendship Center.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

### Worrying, Warts and All

Text: Matthew 6:25-33

Robert Bushey

## Baby Blessing Service Scheduled

A Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents service has been scheduled for Sunday, November 26th during both services. If you wish to have your infant or child included in the service, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

## The Hope of Christmas

This Sunday with your worship bulletin, you will receive the 2006 collection of Advent and Christmas devotional meditations written by members of our church. The series begins with Sunday, November 26 and continues through Epiphany on January 6. Additional copies are available in the church office.

## Welcome New Members



We welcome **Bill & Beverly Wade** who rejoined Central Christian on November 12 by transfer of membership.



## All Church Thanksgiving Dinner This Sunday

Our annual All Church Thanksgiving Dinner is this Sunday, November 19 at noon in the Great Hall. If you plan to come, but have not yet registered, please call the church office (428-4336) by noon on Friday. Each family is asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. Turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetable and a beverage are provided.

## Central Youth

**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.

Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. and we will return by 8 p.m.



Thanksgiving  
Food Baskets

### Coming Soon

November 26<sup>th</sup>

Hanging of the Greens

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Christmas Mission Project

December 9<sup>th</sup>

Parent's Day Out

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

December 17<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Caroling & Party

Pre-Register for Summer

2007 Mission Trip

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>

Slidell, Louisiana

Youth entering grade 9-finish-  
ing grade 12.

Cost \$25 pre-registration

\$100 total

### EMAIL Pastor Robert

If you didn't receive an email from me this week, then I do not have your email address. I am also online many nights between 9 and 10 p.m. on Yahoo Messenger. Email me at [rbushey@cccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org) so that you will not be left out of future notices and become one of my IM friends.

## Alternative Gift Giving Coming Soon

The Christian Action and Community Service Department invites you to participate in the Alternative Gift Giving program for 2006. You are invited to make a tax-deductible donation to one of our seven worthy outreach organizations in honor of someone for the holiday season. This year you may purchase alternative gifts in honor of your loved ones from Baby Talk, ChristCare Stitchers, DOVE, Good Samaritan Inn, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, and the Oasis Day Center for the homeless.

Here's how the program works: you stop by the Alternative Gift Market near the West Entrance on Sundays, December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>; make a donation in someone's name to one of our seven organizations; and we will provide you with a certificate or card to send to your loved one telling them of the wonderful gift you have made in their honor for the holidays. It is really that simple, and that hard to buy for person who has everything anybody could possibly want and more, is well taken care of! Plan now to make Alternative Gift Giving a part of your Christmas experience in 2006.

## Dorcas Selling Note Cards

Dorcas Disciples are selling Central Christian note card packages on Sunday at the main entrance. To support the worldwide mission of the church, one-third of the proceeds will go to the Disciples Mission Fund, a ministry of the general church that receives contributions from more than 2,800 Disciples congregations to support the worldwide mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). One-third will go locally to Dove, Inc., which is committed to serving communities, families and individuals impacted by domestic violence. One-third of the monies raised will go internally to the mission trip fund of Central Christian Church for scholarships to pay for participants from Central to attend the mission trips to Louisiana and for supplies that may be needed. The beautiful photographs of our church were taken by **Steve Swarthout**. The note cards come in packages of 12 for \$10. Thank you for supporting Dorcas in this outreach ministry.

## Preschool Book Fair

The Annual Fall Book Fair for Central Christian Preschool will be open on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. Children's books are available in the preschool hallway on the lower level of the Nichols Education Wing. Books make great gifts for all the children in your family, or perhaps you would like to purchase a book to donate to one of the preschool classes. Stop by the Preschool Book Fair and add some great books to a child's library. The book fair is a fund raiser for the preschool.

## Still a Long Way to Go

Although the annual fall stewardship campaign is over, Central is far from achieving the necessary level of support to sustain current program and staff levels. We have received fewer giving cards than last year and only 80% of the cards needed to achieve success. Current projections show lower income for 2007 and higher costs for ministry and programs. The congregation will face difficult decisions if the church is unable to enlist more support. Have you done your best for your church?



COMMON HOPE + COMMON TRUST



### News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Sandra Worsham** and family following the November 12th death of her mother, *Ethel Worsham* of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

### No Longer a Stranger!

**Coleen Myers** writes, *“Last fall I was new to Decatur and Central Christian, and I was feeling a little lost because I didn’t know anyone. So, the women’s retreat was a wonderful way to solve that problem — when I got to the retreat that group of women welcomed me, included me and enveloped me in a joyful, fun time. They shared their stories with me, taught me some new games and made me feel at home. I came home from the retreat with new friends and the knowledge that I could now recognize several faces when I attended worship. I was no longer a stranger. If you are feeling like you don’t know anyone, then the women’s retreat is a perfect place to change that. Please, come join us!”* Registration forms are now available for our next Women’s Retreat, February 22-23, 2007. Pick up a brochure in the Friendship Center this Sunday and make plans to join us.

### Register Now for Mission Trips in 2007

Registration and information packs are now available for our two 2007 mission trips to the hurricane-affected Gulf region, March 10-18 and June 23-July 1. 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 is \$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. Now is the time to plan ahead to participate in this life-changing experience!

### Note of Thanks Received

I want to thank everyone for the cards and visits I received during my hospital stay. A special thanks to the ministers for calling on me.

*Ruby Agnew*

### For All the Saints

Central’s annual report on special gifts was distributed in worship on All Saints Sunday, November 5. Additional copies are available in the church office if you want to share a copy with family and friends.



### Sunday, November 19, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-John Baird, Piano;  
Leslie Peart, Organ  
10:45-Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Lucy Acheson  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children’s Worship, 250  
12:00-Thanksgiving Dinner, Great Hall  
4:00-Youth Symphony Rehearsal  
5:30-Youth Thanksgiving Project

### Monday (20)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes  
7:30-Decatur Youth Symphony Concert, Sanctuary

### Tuesday (21)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors’ Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor’s Study  
6:00-Bells, Sanctuary  
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room  
7:00-NWRAPS, Great Hall  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### Wednesday (22)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
12:00-Central Singers

### Thursday (23) Thanksgiving Day

Church & Office Closed

### Friday (24)

Church & Office Closed

### Evangelism Seeds

*“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”*

(Mother Teresa)

Speak kindly of your church this week as you invite someone to worship at Central.

## Serving Schedule—November 19, 2006

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Julie Martin, Kevin Otis

### 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, Bob Hoaglin, 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 Swarhout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

### Ushers:

8:15 - Team 2 - Don Tanklersley, Capt., Carl Boline, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston

10:45 - Team 7 - Karen McFadin, Chad McFadin, Jon French, Jane French, Clyde Booher

### Greeters:

8:15 - Dennis & Debbie Downey, Ed & Joy Adams

10:45 - Ron & Mary Jane Oliver, Bob & Billie Harmon

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

**Children's Worship:** Kim Miller

**Parish Nurse:** Lucy Acheson

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos, Sam Funk

10:45 - Daniel Hinze

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Jim Hinze

### Preparation of Communion:

Jan & Judson Pease, Claudia Curry, Kevin & Kim Miller

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

After All Church Thanksgiving Dinner, Doug Soebbing

### November 22 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

### Hosts:

Nov. 20 9:00-12:30 - Alice Brooks

12:30-4:00 - Dee Hill

Nov. 21 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

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

Nov. 22 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Nov. 23 **Thanksgiving Day**

Church & Office Closed

Nov. 24 Church & Office Closed

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
**Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700**  
**HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG**  
**e-mail: *central@cccdisciples.org***

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

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.

## Counting On You

### November 12

Worship Attendance ..... 296

Sunday School Attendance ..... 82



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

PERIODICAL  
 POSTAGE  
 PAID

