



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, November 29, 2006

No. 48



Music for a Merry Christmas

Central organist **Leslie Peart** will present an organ concert in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10 at 4:30 p.m. with help from **Carol Graham**, pianist, and vocal soloists **Connie Bordner**, **Karen Driver**, and **Lucien Smith**. This concert is free and open to the public and will present an excellent opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and family to join you at church for beautiful music of the season.

Deadline Sunday for 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 p.m. 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 3 p.m. Mark your calendar today and return your registration form this Sunday to register for the workshop. Registration deadline is December 3rd.

Families Participate in Blessing of Children

We rejoice with the parents pictured who recently had their children dedicated and blessed at Central.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Get Ready for What?

Text: Luke 21:25-36

Charles Watkins

Congregational Meeting

The congregation will meet to take action on the 2007 budget on Sunday, December 3 at 11:55 a.m. in the Great Hall. All members are invited to attend and vote.

2006 Central Family Pictorial Directories Are Here!

The 2006 Central Pictorial Directories have arrived and the Public Relations Department will have them available for pick up in the Friendship Center again this Sunday. Each family whose picture was taken or submitted for the directory will receive a free copy. Extra copies will be available for \$10 each. We hope you enjoy our wonderful new family picture album.

Spirit of Christmas 2006

Thirty cards remain to be adopted for our *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2006. You may 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*. Gift tags are available in the Friendship Center. 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.

Central Youth

Sunday, December 3rd Christmas Mission Project

Central Youth will meet at 4:30 p.m. to go shopping for the Spirit of Christmas. We will be using a portion of the funds that we raised at our parking lot during the Decatur Celebration for this outreach project. We will wrap the gifts when we return and should be finished by 6:30 p.m.

Parent's Day Out December 9th

12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Youth are needed to help staff our Parent's Day Out following the Children's Christmas Workshop.

Christmas Caroling & Party December 17th 4-7 p.m.

Pre-Register for Summer 2007 Mission Trip

June 23rd - July 1st

Slidell, Louisiana

Youth entering grade 9 -
finishing 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 online many nights after 8 p.m. on Yahoo Messenger. Email me at rbushey@cccdisciples.org so you will not be left out of future notices and become one of my IM friends.

Bringing Hope this Christmas

As we prepare for our Advent/Christmas season together, you may have already noticed a theme that has been carrying through our efforts. *Bringing Hope this Christmas* is our theme for our worship, our wonderful seasonal devotional, our evangelism and public relations efforts, our fellowship events and our outreach programs. In fact, Central's generosity through many forms of outreach in the Decatur community and beyond was the inspiration for the theme as your ministry team began planning back in September.

In the Friendship Center hangs a large banner with an open hand holding a gift-wrapped globe. Through our many ministries of outreach we offer hope to an often hopeless world. Through our Christmas giving programs we provide under resourced families with gifts expressing the spirit of giving and hope that this season is all about. Our worship recreates the hopeful drama of expectation, preparation, and salvation. And, our fellowship reconnects us as members of God's family where hope is found and celebrated!

You are invited to be a part of our congregational effort to bring hope this Christmas. Invitation cards with our theme will be available this Sunday for you to give to your friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Spirit of Christmas tags are ready for adoption and Alternative Gifts are ready for you. Joyful worship, music and fellowship are awaiting you! Don't miss out! Be a part of the celebration of the hope that Jesus brings into the world this Christmas!

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 3 | Congregational business meeting 11:55 a.m. in the Great Hall |
| December 9 | Children's Christmas Workshop 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 |
| December 10 | Music for a Merry Christmas Organ Concert 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary |
| December 13 | Church Council meeting |
| December 17 | Morning Worship with the Millikin-Decatur Symphony Chamber Orchestra 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Come Home for Christmas Brunch at 9:30 a.m.
Come Home for Christmas Lunch at 12:00 noon |
| December 24 | Single morning worship service at 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary |
| December 31 | Single morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. including installation of officers for 2007
New Year's Eve Organ Pops Concert at 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary |

Poinsettias Ready for Pick Up

If you ordered poinsettias earlier this fall, they are at the church and available for you to pick up this Sunday. The plants will be located in the Heritage Center. Please check the list on the table to make sure you know how many and which type you ordered and mark a check by your name so that we know you've picked them up. Thank you for your support of future mission trips and enjoy the beautiful plants as they help bring holiday joy into your home!

News From the Pews.....

Congratulations to **Andy & Janine Boehme** on the finalization of the adoption of their son

You're Invited to Come Home for Christmas

Come Home to Central on Sunday, December 17th as we celebrate *Bringing Hope This Christmas*. During the worship services musical guests will be the Millikin/Decatur Symphony Chamber Orchestra, directed by Dr. Michael Luxner. Our Fellowship and Shepherding departments will host brunch at 9:15 a.m. and lunch at noon, in the Great Hall. The menu will include baked ham, hash brown casserole and croissants. Added with the brunch will be scrambled eggs and fruit salad and the lunch will also include Jello salad, peas and carrots, and cake. Vocal and instrumental ensembles will entertain during both meals. More information and a response card will arrive in your mailbox this week. Registration deadline for either meal is December 10th. Come Home to Central for Christmas!

Alternative Gift Giving Begins This Sunday

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: Baby Talk, ChristCare Stitchers, DOVE, Good Samaritan Inn, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, and the Oasis Day Center for the homeless.

Stop by the Alternative Gift Market near the west entrance on Sundays, December 3rd & 10th; make a donation in someone's name to one of our seven organizations; and we 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. Make Alternative Gift Giving a part of your Christmas in '06.

Please Join Us for the 2007 Women's Retreat!

Betty Chapman writes ... *I always look forward to a retreat! It is a time to forget the outside world for awhile and be with fellow Christians for a time of growth and renewal. The Women's Retreat in February will be a good opportunity for women of Central to become better acquainted, have some fun, and provide a time of spiritual growth as well. Please 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 in February.

Hear Central's Ads on WSOY Radio

The Public Relations Department has produced four commercials to air on WSOY 1340AM during the Advent/Christmas season. The ads, which will sponsor the weather forecast, will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:50 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:35 a.m. The sixty second spots invite the community to experience the hope and joy of Christmas with us and focus on the way Central brings hope to the Decatur community and beyond. The commercials include cameos from **Betsy Osman** of BabyTalk, **Don Tankersley** participant on the mission trip to Honduras, **Unity Henry** soon to be homeowner of Central's Habitat for Humanity house, and **Ernestine Mrozinski** from Central's ChristCare Stitchers. Music for the ads was originally recorded by Central's Organist **Leslie Peart**. Thanks to **Shirley Swarthout** department chair, **Carol Stoddard** and our guest voices for producing meaningful invitations to our community for Christmas!



Sunday, December 3, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Gretchen Barron,
Karen Driver; Marilyn Mertz, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:55-Congregational Meeting, Great Hall
4:30-Youth Christmas Mission Project

Monday (4)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (5)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290
6:30-Boy Scouts, Great Hall

Wednesday (6)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room

Thursday (7)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (8)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center

Saturday (9)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room
10:00-12:00-Children's Christmas Workshop, Disciple Room & Great Hall
12:00-4:00-Parents Day Out (Youth Fund Raiser)
5:30-Stephen Ministers Christmas Dinner, home of Linda Kuhns

Serving Schedule—December 3, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Bruce Williams, Jan Baird

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Carol Graham & Linda Kuhns

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 Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, 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 - Larry & Darla Otis, Mike & Gerri Munos
 10:45 - Dee Hill, Sid Rotz, Bob & Carol Bischoff

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Brett & Kelly Swallow Family

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brittney Munos
 10:45 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar
 10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Barbara Beyer, Karen Baird, Donna Dash, Gerri & Mike Munos

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams
 Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing
 10:45 service only - Karen Baird

December 6 Visitor Mailing Crew: Sara Field

Hosts:

Dec. 4 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
 Dec. 5 9:00-12:30 - Gail Prince
 12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford
 Dec. 6 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
 12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
 Dec. 7 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
 Dec. 8 9:00-12:30 - Bess & Harold King
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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 26

Worship Attendance 298
 Sunday School Attendance 85



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

PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
 PAID

