

Opportunities at Central for Small Groups, Fellowship, Study and Mission



Fall 2004

Central Christian Church

650 West William Street

Decatur, IL 62522

217-428-4336

www.cccdisciples.org

We grow in our faith and spirituality as we become involved in opportunities to connect with those in our church family, dig deeper in study and commitment and reach out beyond ourselves in mission and service. Listed in this booklet are many of the ways this is made possible at Central Christian Church. Take some time to browse through these pages, mark in the margins, think and pray about the ways you can connect, dig deeper and reach out. To sign up for any of these opportunities, call or e-mail the contact person listed, speak with any of your pastors or call the church office.

“The mission of Central Christian Church is to love God and through Christ serve others. This mission finds expression in deepening our spirituality, developing our capacity to serve, and reflecting the diversity of God’s creation.”

F.O.C.U.S. Group Experiences

F.O.C.U.S. experiences (Fun Opportunities at Central for Unique Sharing) are short-term groups, led by Central members who are eager to share their special talents, hobbies, interests and gifts with YOU. If you’re looking for a way to “connect” with others of your church family around shared hobbies, interests and ideas, there’s a F.O.C.U.S. group for you. Registration for each group is encouraged – contact each group facilitator for more information.

Basics of Fabric Painting

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. at 2370 South Lost Bridge Road
Meets: 9-28, 10-5 and 10-12
Facilitated by Virginia Swallow (422-4673)

Virginia will share her love of fabric painting in this group which

will meet in her home. You will need to bring a new or used sweatshirt and a set of fabric paintbrushes (fine line, small and medium - available at Hobby Lobby). All other materials will be provided.

Happy Scrapping

Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Disciple Room
Meets: 10-18, 10-25, 11-1 and 11-8
Facilitated by Gretchen Barron (428-4336,
gbarron@cccdisciples.org)

Learn how to preserve your memories and photographs through the popular art of scrap booking. Beginners and those who want to learn more about this growing hobby will be introduced to basic techniques, equipment and supplies. We’ll work on page layout, matting, simple embellishments, journaling, chalking and more. Advanced scrappers are invited to come and crop with friends while sharing ideas, equipment and fellowship together. We’ll complete several pages during our four weeks together. Basic supplies will be provided. There is a \$5.00 materials fee for this group. Childcare provided for young children in the nursery.

Cutting Up

Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in Room 207
Meets: 10-2, 10-16, 10-23, 10-30, 11-6, 11-13, 11-20
Facilitated by Ernestine Mrozinski, 944-2365, emroz@bwsys.net

Learn to quilt! You need only be able to sew on a machine and we’ll provide the machine! If you wish to donate your completed quilt to Project Linus, all materials will be provided. Otherwise, you bring the materials you wish to work with. Enjoy the fellowship and learn new skills!

Knitting and SEW Forth

Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Room 212

Meets: 9-22, 9-29, 10-6, 10-13, 10-20, 10-27, 11-3, 11-10, 11-17

Facilitated by Betty Scott, 877-2410

Learn how to knit or crochet or receive help with other needlework projects. You pick your project and provide your own materials.

Learn to make an eyelash scarf or the latest craze, a crocheted poncho, or anything else!

Boot-Scootin' Scoochers

Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. at 4670 Trevino Lane

Meets: 9-29, 10-6, 10-13, 10-20 and 10-27

Facilitated by Janice Mitchell, 520-1462, mjanm77707@aol.com

Learn to enjoy Line Dancing! Beginners to Intermediate learners are welcome. No partners are needed. Hard-soled shoes are recommended for slidin' and stompin'. Ask yourself, "Would John Wayne do this?" Absolutely! It can become physically addictive and will improve balance, flexibility and fluidness of movement. What is it? Moving to music with an instructor who is patient, has a good sense of humor and knows that perfection is NOT the object! Live every day to the fullest and enjoy line dancing instruction with a herd of good-lookin' people. We'll learn the Achy Breaky and Tush Push along with many other cleverly-named dances. Minimum of 8 participants needed for this group.

Tell Connie Where to Go!

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at previously determined locations

Meets: 9-28, 10-5, 10-12 and 10-19

Facilitated by Connie Bordner, 422-4954,
heyladyheylady@msn.com

Tell Connie where to go - to eat, that is! And then, go with her! Connie will lead this fun and interesting group in an experience of unusual and affordable area restaurants (no chain restaurants allowed). The focus is on out-of-the-way and out-of-the-ordinary

places to eat within a 20 mile radius of Decatur. Do you know of a place with a different flair or a different menu? Let's try it together! Group members will help set the destinations. Limit of 10 people with 2 alternates.

Study and Support Groups

Jeremiah Bible Study

Pastor Robert will offer a ten-week study of the prophet Jeremiah on Tuesday evenings at 6:30PM and Wednesday mornings at 10:30AM beginning on September 21st. The study will discuss Jeremiah's world and God's judgment, prophetic signs and false prophets, unfaithfulness and lament, and consolation and hope. The course is open to youth and adults. The book for the course is \$10. Call the church office (428-4336) to reserve your place or speak with Pastor Bushey for more information. Pastor Robert will also lead a Bible Study on 2 Corinthians beginning in February 2005.

The Spirit-Gifted Life - Embark with others on a journey of discovering your Spiritual Gifts and ministry in this eight-week short study course. During our time together, you'll explore the answers to questions like: What is the purpose of Spiritual Gifts?; What does the Bible say about Spiritual Gifts?; and How Can I be Sure of my Spiritual Gifts? The class meets during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30 a.m.) each Sunday morning in the Ecclesia Fellowship room (218) on 2R. The study began on September 12th. More information is available by contacting Liz Campbell (423-3083), Lois Whitaker (824-6816) or Pastor Gretchen.

Beginnings: An Introduction to the Christian Faith

This is a small-group spiritual experience, perfect for adults at any point in your spiritual journey. Whether you're new to the faith or a

seasoned veteran, this group will allow you to take a fresh look at your faith in a warm and relaxed setting. Each two-hour session will include a meal, video presentation and group discussion around a question of faith. To accommodate a variety of schedules, both daytime (from 11:30-1:30) and evening (from 5:00-7:00) sessions will be held. Cost for materials is just \$10.00 (includes two separate books) and donations are accepted each week to help offset the cost of the meal. Childcare will be offered, if needed, and children are invited to join the group during the mealtimes. The summer/fall session began in August and will finish October 14th. A new group will begin in February 2005. Look for more information in the Central Visitor.

Power of Prayer (P.O.P.) ChristCare Group - This group meets weekly for prayer and study. We pray for one another and those in need. Also incorporated into our meeting time is the study of a book by Max Lucado. Our study is designed to equip us for daily living. The group meets each Tuesday in Room 207 at 1:15 p.m. A new study will begin in October. For more information contact Ernestine Mrozinski (944-2365), emroz@bwsys.net.

Wednesday ChristCare Study Group - This group meets at 3:00 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon in Room 290 for study and prayer. The group is currently studying Max Lucado's, In the Grip of Grace. A new study will begin in October. For more information, contact group leader, Jody Featherstun (864-6160), Featherstu@aol.com

Peace & Justice Film Series

The Peace & Justice Task Force is sponsoring the first of four films that address issues of prejudice and racism on Sunday, September 26th at 5PM in the Great Hall. Blue Eyed is a documentary of a profoundly moving and controversial social experiment created by an elementary school teacher shortly after the assassination of Dr.

Martin Luther king, Jr. Other dates and films include November 7th (Tuskegee Airmen), February TBA (Malcolm X). An opportunity for discussion will follow the films. As with our former Dinner & DVD series, a dinner will be served and donations received to offset the costs of the food.

Listening to the Spirit: A Process for Discernment

What is the gospel message to our church as we relate to gay and lesbian Christians? Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have developed a discernment process to help the church address this topic. Discernment is a matter of listening to the Spirit for guidance in our church life. In response to a resolution at General Assembly, material was developed which consists of worship, Bible study, communion, and personal sharing. You are invited to participate in this process of in-depth Bible study, which will begin September 15th at 6:30PM. Miley Palmer, a retired United Methodist minister has agreed to lead this group, where all positions will be heard in a safe, confidential setting where unity is in Christ. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please contact Pastor Robert.

Central's NSG's (Neighborhood Study Groups)

This new program will kick off in early 2005 as we move out into the community with a series of Home Studies in various neighborhoods around town. The studies will be facilitated and hosted by Central members and leaders. Schedules will vary depending on location. Look for more information in January in the Central Visitor.

Mission and Outreach Opportunities

Stephen Ministry - Stephen Ministry is a system of lay care giving where trained Stephen Ministers are linked to persons who are going through difficult times, transitions or illnesses. Stephen Ministers must complete 50 hours of training which develops special skills in listening, using spiritual and community resources and other issues related to Christian care giving. Stephen Ministers commit to at least a two-year term of service and participate in on-going supervision and continuing education. A new training class will begin in October 2004. For more information, contact our Stephen Leaders, Carol McClure (864-5122), Linda Kuhns (423-2266) or Pastor Gretchen.

ChristCare Stitchers - The Stitchers are an active group of members and friends who meet every first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month to share in prayer, skill building, and service to others by making blankets for children in crisis or trauma. Blankets are distributed through the national organization, Project Linus, and by other means. Blankets can be sewn, quilted, crocheted or knitted and are made entirely with donated supplies. Interested persons of all skill levels are welcomed, there is a job for every person. Contact Ernestine Mrozinski (944-2365) emroz@bwsys.net.

Faith in Action of Macon County - The Faith in Action Caregivers Program (formerly Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers) serves frail homebound individuals age 55 and older. Services are provided through a network of trained volunteers from area religious congregations, service organizations and the community at-large. The goal is to assist individuals and their families to maintain their

independence, dignity and quality of life. For more information or to volunteer, contact our congregational coordinator, Marcia Furby (875-8074)

Good Samaritan Inn Volunteers - A group of volunteers prepares and serves the noon meal each second Monday of the month at this local soup kitchen. Dates for the fall include: 9-13, 10-11, 11-8 and 12-13 For more information contact Judy Ford (875-1538).

Meals on Wheels Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to drive routes and serve meals for two weeks each year. For more information contact Dottie Scholes (877-4438).

Habitat for Humanity - Volunteers are needed to help with home construction on Thursday mornings and Saturdays. Other opportunities exist to serve on planning committees, assist with office tasks and for other various activities. For more information contact Dean Simcox (422-5927) or Norm Lienemann (422-7571).

Oasis Day Center - Saturday meals are prepared and served four times each year. Our 2004 fall date is October 16th. For more information contact Judy Ford (875-1538).

Sunday School Classes

Sunday mornings

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., September through May

9:00-9:45 a.m., June through August

Keystone Class - Room 202 - This class includes couples and single adults 60 years of age or older. They use “The Present Word” Curriculum. In addition to Sunday morning, this group meets on a regular basis for fellowship, meals and service projects. For more information contact Inabell Kirby (422-0990).

Ecclesia/Fellowship - Room 218 - this is a class comprised of middle age through retirement age adults - mostly couples, although not limited to couples. They have lively discussions as they discover new understandings about the Bible and how it relates to their lives. They generally use the “Seasons of the Spirit” Curriculum but also participate in other various study opportunities from time to time. They meet periodically for fellowship activities and various service projects outside of Sunday morning. For more information contact Sally Thicksten (794-5525).

Disciples Class - Disciples Room (downstairs) - This class includes singles and couples of all ages. Using both lecture and discussion, they study a variety of topics. The class has occasional social and service projects. For more information contact Randy Brooks (877-2966) or Claudia Quigg (429-6636).

Chalice Class - Room 207 - The Chalice Class is comprised of couples and singles in their 30's, 40's and beyond! The class is a discussion-oriented group that uses a variety of resources. Currently they are studying “Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum. There are occasional fellowship activities outside of class. For more information contact Jane Watkins (423-6403).

Children and Youth Sunday School Classes - Classes are available for all children and youth from age 3 through 12th grade. Each class has caring and consistent teachers. The Preschool Sunday School class (age 3 to 5) meets in the classroom just north

of the nursery on 1R). Kindergarten through 12th grade classes meet on 2R (class name and grades are posted on each door). Children through 8th grade are studying the curriculum “Seasons of the Spirit”. The Senior High group (grades 9-12) are exploring the music-based curriculum, “High Frequency”. For questions about children’s and youth classes, contact Sunday School Superintendent, Christine Lyman-Harm (422-2004).

Athletic and Fellowship Groups

Wellness Walk - Participants meet each Monday and Friday morning in the Great Hall from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. for walking and light exercise and aerobics. For more information contact Ann Raddatz (875-6646).

Aerobics - Participants meet every Monday through Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in Room 290 for a vigorous workout. For more information contact Sue Simcox (422-5927).

Bowling League - The Central Christian Church Monday Night Bowling League will play for 16 weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 20th at Pla Mor Lanes. The cost is \$8.50 per night plus shoes if you need them. Our goal is fun and fellowship. You need not be an exemplary bowler to join us. The league is open to all high school youth and adults. Substitute bowlers are also needed. If you are interested in joining us, please call or email Pastor Robert at 428-4336 or at rbushey@cccdisciples.org

Elderberries - This is Central's fellowship group for those 55 years young and counting. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at noon in the Great Hall for a delicious, home-cooked meal and a program or entertainment. Cost is just \$3.00 per meal and take-outs are available if needed. Reservations are required and must be made to the church office by 5 p.m. on the Monday before the luncheon.

FunTimers - This on-the-go group for "mature" adults gets together several times each year for day trips to restaurants, shopping centers, plays and other attractions. Watch the Central Visitor for more information on upcoming events or contact Pastor Gretchen for more information.

Dinner for Eight - Dinner for Eight are informal groupings of Central members and friends which meet in each other's home to share a pot luck dinner and fellowship together. Sign ups are held three times each year. Contact the church office or Pastor Gretchen for more information.

Youth and Children's Groups

Central Youth Group - Youth grades 6-12 meet for 90 minutes weekly, September through May, on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m.(see note below) for fun, fellowship, service and study. Each evening begins with supper either provided or at a local fast food place (buy your own). The group participates in local, regional and general youth ministry assemblies, holds fund raisers 4-6 times per year, sponsors lock-ins and special outings, and participates in our annual Youth Sunday worship scheduled for Sunday, October

31st. Janet Lyman and Janet Thicksten are the sponsors for Central Youth Group. Watch the *Central Visitor* for announcements about meetings and activities. Note: *times vary depending on activities; every effort is made to notify our youth of time changes; watch the newsletter, website or email Pastor Robert if you have a question.*

CCC KIDS – Our newest youth ministry is CCC KIDS for children in 1st — 5th Grade. CCC KIDS meets every Sunday from 4-5:30PM for fun, fellowship, field trips, study and service. Meeting times may change depending on the activity and we will notify parents when that happens. Jan Baird is the sponsor for CCC KIDS.

Women's and Men's Groups

Dorcas Disciples - This is a group of women with members ranging in age from their 40's to 70's. The group meets at various members homes ten months out of the year, generally on the 4th Tuesday evening of the month, for fellowship, study, and outreach projects. For more information and a schedule of meetings, contact the church office.

Sisters In Spirit – This Women's group meets the first Wednesday evening of each month from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., for fellowship, sharing, learning and spiritual growth. Fall 2004 programs include a demonstration of women's self defense, a presentation on organization for home and office, and a holiday craft project. Time and location may vary depending on the nature of the

program. Child care is provided for all meetings at the church. For more information, contact Pastor Gretchen.

Come to the Well - This is a gathering of Central women and friends who meet one Saturday each quarter for fellowship and a meal (either brunch or lunch) at the church. Often there is also a program. The fall meeting will be an 11:30 luncheon (pot luck) on November 13th in the Disciples Classroom. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Pastor Gretchen.

Ladies Night Out – All women of the church are invited to a quarterly dinner out at an area restaurant for fun, fellowship and community building. Door prizes are offered and a good time is promised! The Fall 2004 night out will be held November 9th at the Tuscany Restaurant. Call the church office to make a reservation.

Disciples Men - This group gathers for a seasonal mid-week breakfast study (from 6:30-7:30 a.m.) of issues and Biblical themes. The fall session begins in October. The group meets in the Disciples Classroom.

Music Groups

For more information about any of Central's Music Groups, contact our Minister of Music, Don Martin.

Men's Chorus - This choir is for men of all ages. Members rehearse once each month on the Sunday morning they sing in worship. Times and dates vary.

Central Singers - This choir is for women of all ages. It meets every Wednesday from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for the enjoyment of making music and to share their talents with the congregation. They sing in worship once each month and at other events in the community.

Chancel Choir - This adult choir meets for rehearsal Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The group provides an anthem and other music for Sunday morning worship each week. In addition to caring greatly about the music and their service to the congregation, this group cares about each other through sharing, fellowship and prayer.

Chancel Bells - This English Handbell choir meets to rehearse every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:15. They come to work together on learning new music and new bell techniques.

Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles and Solos - there are opportunities from time to time for instrumental groups or small vocal ensembles to get together for special occasions. There are also opportunities for vocal and instrumental solos.

Youth Choir and Instrumental Group- This group for those in grades 6-12 rehearses on Sunday afternoons 1 hour prior to Youth Group.

Children's Music - (Grades 1-5) There will be opportunity for children to sing fun songs in a choir or make music in a chime choir. They will prepare music for worship and special occasions. Speak with Don Martin for more information or watch your Central Visitor for updates.