



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, November 2, 2005

No. 44

Craig Courtney Concert to be Held at Central

Sunday, November 20 at both worship services we will dedicate the anthem *Simple Praise* with words by Pamela Martin and music by Craig Courtney. This piece was commissioned by the Chancel Choir to honor the memory of **Albert Johnson**. Please invite your friends to the Craig Courtney Concert at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 20. Besides the anthems performed by the Mass Choir, Craig Courtney will play some of his music on the piano and Janna Peterson will sing some solo works. For more information contact **Don Martin**.

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

The Fellowship Department would like to invite you and your family to an all church Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 20th, immediately following the 10:45 worship service. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, and beverage will be provided by the Fellowship Department. Each family is asked to bring a salad or dessert that will serve at least 10. Mark your calendars today and plan to join your church family on November 20th.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday November 9th!

Elderberries, Central's fellowship group for those at least 55 years young will meet at noon on Wednesday, November 9th. This month's menu includes Roast Chicken with Dressing, Buttered Corn, Seven Layer Salad, Rolls and Butter and Pumpkin Pie with Cool Whip. The food is lovingly prepared from scratch in Central's own kitchen with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, our own **John Graham** will share some of his collection of Antique Toys. All participants are invited to bring an old or antique toy to share with the group, as well. To sign up, please call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. Reservations cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. on Monday, November 7th, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

Ladies Night out Tuesday, November 15th!

Celebrate the beautiful fall season by gathering together with other women and friends of Central for Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, November 15th. We'll gather at 6 p.m. at Taters Family Grill, 2981 North Main. As always, fun, fellowship, food, laughter and door prizes will abound! We'll meet in their private party room at 6 p.m. and will order off the dinner menu with separate checks (17% gratuity will be added – meals with beverage average \$10-\$14). Bring your grown daughter, or mother or friend for a great evening out. Sign up this Sunday at the Women's Ministry table in the Friendship Center.

Baby Blessing Service Scheduled

A Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents service has been scheduled for Sunday, November 27th during both services. If you wish to have your infant or child included in the service, contact the church office as soon as possible.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2005

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Gathering at the River

Text: Revelation 21:22-22:5

Charles Watkins

Congregational Meeting

The Congregation of Central Christian Church will meet at noon in the Disciple Room on November 27 for the purpose of voting on the 2006 budget and on the proposal to conduct a new building fund campaign 2006-2009. All members of the congregation are invited to attend and vote on the two items on the agenda.

Welcome New Members



Welcome to new members **Andy & Janine Boehme**, who became members of Central on October 30 by transfer of membership.

CCC KIDS

Sunday, November 6th

CCC KIDS will meet at PlaMor Lanes from 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$4 per person for 2 games of bowling and shoes. Friends are always welcome!

Youth Group

Sunday, November 6th

Central Youth will meet at 4:00-6:30 p.m. to help with set construction for our Youth drama, *Fools*. Supper will be provided. Youth who are not cast members are needed to help with serving during the dinner theatres on Friday and Saturday as well. Instructions for kitchen help and servers will be available. If we finish our work early The Point will be open for pool and Room 280 for ping pong.

Summit News

A Pre-Summit meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. All youth registered for Summit and their parents need to attend to learn details about travel and lodging arrangements.

Preschool Holds Book Fair

The Annual Fall Book Fair for Central Christian Preschool begins Tuesday, November 8th and runs through Sunday, November 20th. Children's books will be available in the preschool hallway on the lower level of the Nichols' Education Wing. Books make great gifts for sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, grandsons and granddaughters. Books may also be donated to one of the preschool classes or the church library. Stop by the Preschool Book Fair and add some great books to a child's library. The book fair is an annual fundraiser for the preschool.

Charles's Column

One of the most vital ministries of the church is the ministry of encouragement. To encourage others is literally to "in-hearten" them or to give them heart, to cheer them on, to inspire them with courage, spirit, or hope. In the oldest Christian document that still exists, the earliest written evidence of the existence of Christianity, the Apostle Paul puts it this way: "*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*" (I Thessalonians 5:11)

I watched you doing this last Sunday. Children and youth were in charge of the worship service and took leadership responsibility for major elements of the service. And I saw you thanking them, commending them, cheering them on, inspiring them with courage, spirit, and hope. And then, after you did that in the first service, I saw the effects of your encouragement in the second service. They had greater confidence, greater assurance, greater effectiveness. They were encouraged by you.

I also watched the young people encouraging each other. They helped each other and built each other up. And beyond leading two services on a Sunday morning, they strengthened the base of leadership and commitment that will be part of their lives in the church and beyond for decades to come. And they encouraged all of us who are older, seeing that our children actually "get it" and that our church's future is in good and caring and capable hands. I was proud of them and proud of you.

The other great encouragement you have provided over these last three weeks is for the Stewardship Department which has the difficult task of predicting the resources and costs for carrying on mission and ministries in Jesus's name here at Central next year as they make up a budget. In each of the first three weeks, your estimates of giving have exceeded all figures anticipated in previous stewardship campaigns.

Many Central families are planning to give sacrificially next year, giving beyond what they did this year, beyond what is easy or convenient. When your own estimate of giving exceeds expectations, you are giving encouragement and lifting the hearts of your fellow church members. People who are giving sacrificially are encouraged by others who are making the same effort.

Solicitation of support for the *Generations of Generosity* campaign officially ends this week, but the church still needs to hear from fifty more families whose support has been vital in the past and whose gifts are needed for effective ministry next year. You are highly effective encouragers! Don't stop!

Charles Watkins

Presenting: Neil Simon's Play "Fools"

The youth of Central are proud to present Neil Simon's play, *Fools*, directed by **Katie Beal**, on Friday & Saturday, Nov. 11th and 12th at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 13th at 2:30 p.m. Cast members **Daniel Hinze, Brittney Munos, Zach Martin, Kaylene Beal, Bryan Rutherford, Shelby Larrick, Andrew Rutherford, Sean Beal, David Martin, and Avery Martin** invite you to join them for the laugh-out-loud comedy. Tickets for the dinner theatre are \$12.50 and include roasted pork loin, baked potato, steamed vegetables, salad, bread, drinks and dessert. Tickets for the matinee performance are \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door. Advance ticket sales are available this Sunday in the Friendship Center or by calling the church "box" office, 428-4336.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of *Eloise Clark*, following her death on October 29th.

Decatur Golden K Kiwanis has named **Charles Wallace**, a member of Central's staff, as Kiwanian of the Year. Congratulations, Charlie!

Note of Thanks Received

I would like to thank all the Central ministers and friends for the calls, cards and flowers that made my stay at St. Mary's Hospital seem a little shorter. I hope to be able to return soon.

-Clark Waldmier

CCIW Miracle Days Thanks You!

Thank you so much for all your involvement and encouragement for the CCIW Miracle Days: your faithful prayer support, tremendous financial support, the hard work of the Outreach Committee, big bags of paper towel from Dorcas Disciples, the Disciples Sunday School Class, all 37 volunteers who were supreme working witnesses - from the basement to the roof, inside and outside; for bringing and sharing your tools, **Katie Beal** for writing the skit, the Youth Group (WOW, what you did for that library!), **Larry Pepper** and **Theresa Fulk** for your photos, **Don Tankersley** and **Ernestine Mrozinski** for being faithful members of the committee. For all of this and more, I am deeply grateful. You bring being proud very close to vanity.

-Lois Whitaker

Dream On, Sisters!

Discover Your Dreams! Awaken to God's Dreams! Live out those Dreams in the World! This is the call to all United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) women...register now to attend the Mix in '06 Women's Event, June 21-25, 2006, Indianapolis, IN, bringing together the UCC National Women's Meeting and the Disciples Quadrennial Assembly. Dream On, Sisters! Join with 5,000 other dreamers at the Mix in '06 Women's Event and set free the power of your own dream. The five-day event woven with worship, fellowship, study, mission, music, learning, laughter, and spiritual growth, will - inspire you to dream, empower your dreams and allow you to live out your dreams. To register go to: www.dreamonsisters.com and look for more information in the Visitor and in the Friendship Center in the coming weeks and months. We hope to plan some fund raisers so that scholarship assistance will be available to all women attending this major event. Speak with **Pastor Gretchen** for more information!

Central Breakfast Café Closed

The Central Breakfast Café has closed. Thank you to all who helped with preparing breakfast and cleaning up afterwards. While several families have enjoyed the opportunity to share breakfast on Sunday mornings, we have decided to close at the beginning of November in anticipation of the busy holiday season and the Great Hall renovation project, which will begin soon. Plans to reopen after the renovation project will be discussed by the Christian Education Department.



Sunday, November 6, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Leslie Peart, organ;

John Baird, piano

8:15 Anthem-Central Singers

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir

8:30-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

9:30-Jr. High Chimes, Music Room

1:30-3:30-CCC Kids Bowling, PlaMor

4:00-Youth Group

6:30-Play Rehearsal

Monday (7)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

6:30-Play Rehearsal, Great Hall

Tuesday (8)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

1:15-ChristCare, 218

6:00-Public Relations Dept., 290

6:30-Play Rehearsal, Great Hall

Wednesday (9)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280

12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall

12:00-Central Singers

1:30-Low Vision Support, Disciple Rm.

2:00-ChristCare, 290

5:00-CADV Meeting, Disciple Room

6:30-Play Rehearsal

Thursday (10)

10:00-Alanon, 212

5:30-Stewardship Dept., Disciple Room

6:00-Chancel Bells

6:30-Play Dress Rehearsal

7:00-PrairieLand Investors, 212

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (11)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

6:30-Youth Dinner Theater, Great Hall

Saturday (12)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

11:00-Spirit of Christmas Task Force,

Volunteer Room

6:30-Youth Dinner Theater, Great Hall

Serving Schedule—November 6, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Tom Spry, Julie Martin

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Larry Pepper & Keith Backes

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Dallas Beyer, Mary Coate, Jane Davis, Sherri Hood, Paula Hovey, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Norm Lienemann, Larry Otis, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, David Shields, Max Sperry
10:45 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Katie Beal, Mark Beal, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Dan Brintlinger, Nedra Brintlinger, Randy Brooks, Shirley Brooks, Deborah Foster, Larry Foster, Andy Fulk, Debra Fulk, Sarah Fulk, Dee Hill, Wayne Honeycutt, Louellen Lusk, Karen McFadin, Janice Mitchell, Kevin Morrison-Otis, Alex Otis, Andrew Rutherford, 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 - Dean & Sue Simcox, Kevin & Mickie Wilmot
10:45 - Jon & Jane French, Barb Tyler, Nedra Brintlinger

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Bill & Carol Charlton

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brittney Munos
10:45 - Erik Harm, Sean Beal

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash
10:45 - Jordan Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Jean & Judson Pease, Claudia Curry, Kevin Miller, Susan Woods

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot
10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

November 9 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

Hosts:

Nov. 7 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Maxine Koenig
Nov. 8 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer
Nov. 9 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward
Nov. 10 9:00-12:30 - Charlie Harris
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Nov. 11 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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
Joanne Frady, Sarah & Debra Fulk Childcare Providers
Shelby Larrick, Bryan Rutherford Childcare Providers
Jean Pease Preschool Director
Trudy Garland, Shelly Messmore Preschool Teachers
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 30

Worship Attendance 278
Sunday School Attendance 70



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(Disciples of Christ)
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PERIODICAL
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