



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, November 9, 2005

No. 45

Craig Courtney Concert to be Held at Central

Sunday, November 20th 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 20th. 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**.

Last Chance to Sign Up for Ladies Night Out!

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 or call the church office.

Donations Needed for Mothers and Children

Our Sisters in Spirit Women's Group is currently soliciting donations of small items for both mothers and babies involved in the Baby Talk Family Literacy and Teen Parent programs, both housed at Central. Items will be used as Christmas gifts and incentive gifts for those involved. Items needed are body lotions, sprays and soaps; nail polish; candles; women's "fun" socks; hot chocolate mix; mugs; diapers; board books for children; puzzles; blocks; balls; hats and mittens for children; children's educational toys for ages 6 weeks to 3 years. Items will be collected in the box provided on the Women's Ministry Table in the Friendship Center through Sunday, December 4th.

Spirit of Christmas 2005

Preparations are under way for Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2005. 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 nearly 100 children and adults from Dove, Webster-Cantrell Hall, and Decatur Township Assistance. Gift tags will be available in the Friendship Center beginning this Sunday, November 20th. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, no later than Sunday, December 11th when they will be dedicated during our morning worship.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Gretchen Barron

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, please contact the church office as soon as possible.



Congregational Meeting

The Congregation of Central Christian Church will meet on Sunday, November 27 at noon in the Disciples Room to consider two items of business: (1) the proposed budget for 2006 and (2) authorization of a three-year capital campaign to be conducted in the spring of 2006 for capital needs 2006-2009 including new roofs for the fifty-year-old sanctuary and chapel, replacement of crumbling limestone steps on the exterior of the sanctuary and chapel, maintenance and repair of the church stained glass windows, a new phone system, a new and more accessible church vehicle, completion of remaining projects from the 2003-2006 campaign and other extraordinary building costs.

All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend and vote at this meeting.



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.

**Central Christian
Church
Youth Drama Ministry
Presents...**

**FOOLS
A Neil Simon Play**

**Dinner Theatre
Friday & Saturday,
Nov. 11th – 12th
6:30 p.m.**

**Dinner Menu:
Roasted Pork Loin
Baked Potato
Steamed Vegetables
Salad & Bread
Cobbler & Drinks**

**Sunday, Nov. 13th
2:30 p.m.**

**Limited Number of
Tickets Available
at the Door
Dinner Theatre \$12.50
Sunday Play Only \$6.00
in Advance
Call 428-4336 to reserve
your seat today!**

Gretchen's Gleanings

Can you believe that Advent will begin in just a few weeks? Perhaps you're one of those people who already have your shopping done, or at least well under way. Or, perhaps you, like me, are just now beginning to think about not only the shopping, but also all the extra activity and merry-making that comes with this most holy season. The Christmas holiday season, with all its joy, can be a most difficult time for those who are grieving lost loved ones. The joyful spirit and anticipation at this time of year only accentuates the grief that many are feeling as they face difficult holiday traditions and gatherings without the ones they love so much. If you are grieving this holiday season, you are not alone and there are several helpful resources available for you. Of course, you can always talk with any of your pastors for support and hope. Our ears are always available and our doors are always open to meet with you. In addition, our Stephen Ministers are available to meet with you on a regular basis and to help you through this and other difficult transitions. Speak with me at any time if you would like more information about Stephen Ministry or would like to meet with a Stephen Minister. There are also helpful programs offered through the community. This Sunday, November 13th, St. Mary's Hospital is hosting a forum for persons of all faiths who have lost a loved one through death. From 2:00-4:00 p.m., Chaplain Mary Handley and others will share suggestions for handling the holidays. To participate, please register by calling 464-2046. And this year, our Stephen Ministers are planning a special service of Remembering and Hope for Those Who Grieve at Christmas on Sunday, December 4th at 4:30 p.m. This service, open to Central and the wider Decatur community, will offer hope and comfort through meditation and scripture, prayer and song, as we lift up the names and memories of those who have passed. And finally, there is a special display of CareNotes available in the Welcome Center, offering comforting words in take-home pamphlets for those who grieve or are facing serious illness during the holidays. Feel free to pick up one or more copies for yourself or someone you know. When you've lost a loved one, it is true that Christmas may not be the same this year, or even for years to come. But through the ever-present love and grace of God and a caring church family, you do not have to walk this journey alone.

My thoughts and prayers are with you — *Gretchen*

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

You and your family are invited 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.

Children's Christmas Workshop, December 10th

The Christian Education Department is sponsoring a Children's Christmas Workshop on Saturday, December 10th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for children ages 3 yrs. – 11 yrs. Children will be able to make Christmas gifts for their parents and siblings, with the help of Elves and helpers. 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 11 a.m. and running until 4 p.m. Mark your calendar today and watch for your chance to register for the workshop in the Friendship Center.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Rev. Marilyn Williams Spry, following the death of her husband, **Ed Spry** on October 31. Both Marilyn and Ed served on our church staff in the 1960s....Sympathy also to the family of **Eugenia Brilley**, who died on Saturday, November 5.....and to the family and friends of **C.E. Booker**, who died November 7.

Alternative Gift Giving Coming Soon

The Christian Action and Community Service Department is once again inviting you to participate in the Alternative Gift Giving program for 2005. 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 also 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 4th & 11th; 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 2005.

A Chance to Do Something About It!

For the past two years, members of the CACS Department, Sunday School classes, Central Youth and others from Central, along with about a dozen other local churches, have provided weekend meals for area residents without food at the Oasis Day Center. Recent growth in the number of persons without resources to provide a meal for themselves or their family members on the weekends has prompted some changes in our area's hunger relief efforts. Meals are now being served at the Good Samaritan Inn (which operates regularly on weekdays) to accommodate the larger number of people. And, with these changes comes the need for a team of volunteers from Central to help with planning, cooking and serving weekend meals for the poorest of our area six times in 2006. If you have ever wanted to do something to give back to your community or to help make our community a better place to live for everyone, this may be just what you've been looking for! We need your help and we need to hear from you soon! A sign up sheet will be available in the Friendship Center on Sunday or contact **Gordon Gregory**, CACS Chair or **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336 with questions or to volunteer.



Sunday, November 13, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Men's Group
10:45 Offertory-Men's Chorus
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:30-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
9:30-Pre-Summit Meeting, Parlor
9:30-Jr. High Chimes, Music Room
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
2:30-Youth Play, Great Hall

Monday (14)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
4:00-Aerobics
5:30-Hurricane Task Force,
Volunteer Room

Tuesday (15)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-ChristCare, 218
4:00-Aerobics
6:00-Ladies Night Out, Taters
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

Wednesday (16)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
2:00-ChristCare, 290
4:00-Aerobics
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:30-Fellowship & Shepherding Depts.,
Disciple Room
7:00-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

Thursday (17)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics
5:30-Preschool Board, 280
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (18)

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

Saturday (19)

9:00-Dorcas Soup, Great Hall Kitchen
9:00-4:00-Craig Courtney Workshop,
Sanctuary

Counting On You

November 6

Worship Attendance 306
Sunday School Attendance 83

Serving Schedule—November 13, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Pepper, Claudia Quigg

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Tina Canfield
 Jared Carter
 Bev Chapman
 Merle Chapman
 Gail Prince
 Dean Simcox
 Brett Swallow
 Dale Ford
 Judy Ford
 Ernestine Mrozinski

Elders

Julie Martin
 Bruce Williams
 Carol Graham
 Keith Backes
 Pat Ash
 Jan Baird
 Sue Ann Cain
 Randy Brooks
 Bob Smith
 Bruce Campbell
 Alternate: Connie Bordner

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 1 - Chris Fagin, Capt., Tina Canfield, Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Sally Force, Gene Garver, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Bob Hoaglin, Joe Lewis, John Paradee, Gail 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, Brett Swallow, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Karen Thomas, Kathy Thornton

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Ruby Agnew, Betty Beebe, Willie Birkhead, Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos
 10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Marilyn Blank, Bob Harmon, Billie Harmon, Sally Thicksten

Greeters:

8:15 - Jim, Pamela & Jarrett Bednar
 10:45 - Glen & Jody Featherstun, David & Katie Miller

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar
 10:45 - Daniel Hinze, Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar
 10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
 Sunday School and 10:45 service - Andy Fulk
 10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

November 16 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marg Karl

Hosts:

Nov. 14 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
 12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis
 Nov. 15 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
 12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor
 Nov. 16 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
 12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
 Nov. 17 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
 12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
 Nov. 18 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
 12:30-4:00 - Juanita Reynolds

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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
 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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