



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, November 16, 2005

No. 46

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

The Fellowship Department invites 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. If you are able to join us for dinner and have not signed up, please call the church office at 428-4336 and we'll be sure to set a place at the table for you and your family.

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 programs 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.

Remembrance and Hope for Those Who Grieve at Christmas

All are invited to attend a special service of Remembrance and Hope for Those Who Grieve at Christmas on Sunday, December 4th at 4:30 p.m. Through meditation and scripture, prayer and song, we will lift up the names and memories of those who have passed away and offer hope and peace for those who grieve. The service, sponsored by our Stephen Ministers, is open to the community. Childcare will be provided for young children in the nursery. For more information, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.



Local Hunger Relief Team

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! Seven people have already indicated that they want to make a difference in Decatur and we need at least five more! For the past two years, we 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. 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. A sign up sheet will be available in the Friendship Center on Sunday or you may contact **Gordon Gregory**, CACS Chair or **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336 with questions or to volunteer.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2005

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Simple Praise

Text: Psalm 95:1-7

Charles Watkins

Congregational Meeting

The Congregation will meet at noon on November 27 in the Disciple Room to consider two recommendations from the Church Council: (1) to vote on an operating budget for all our church's ministries in 2006, and (2) to vote on a proposal to conduct a capital campaign next spring for various building fund needs around the campus. All members of the church are encouraged to attend and vote at this business meeting.

Hanging of the Greens

The sanctuary will be ceremoniously decorated for the Advent and Christmas Seasons in a traditional service of Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 27, at 4:30 p.m.

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, 428-4336.

Craig Courtney Concert

Sunday, November 20

3:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary

Advent Devotional Booklet

The Worship Department's annual collection of Advent Devotional Meditations by members of Central, *Believe*, will be available to all members this Sunday morning in your worship bulletin.

Summit News

Trey Burrus, Alex & Eric Harm; Avery, David & Zach Martin, Mackenzie & Shelby Larrick, Brittney Munos and Andrew Rutherford will attend Summit 2005 this weekend at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield with about 1000 other Disciples youth from IL and WI. **Janet Lyman, Janet Thicksten and Pastor Robert** will attend as sponsors. Please, keep our Summit participants in your prayers this weekend.

Central Youth Starring in School Plays

Debra Fulk, a Senior at Cerro-Gordo High School has a role in this weekend's production of *Varney the Vampire*. The play will run this Friday (11/18) and Saturday (11/19) at 7 p.m. in the Cerro Gordo Middle School gymnasium. **Alex Otis** a Junior at St. Theresa High School has a role in this weekend's production of *Charley's Aunt*. The play will run this Friday (11/18) and Saturday (11/19) at 7 p.m. at the high school. Best wishes Debra & Alex!

Bravo!

Congratulations to **Katie Beal**, Director and cast members **Andrew Rutherford, Zach Martin, Shelby Larrick, Kaylene Beal, David Martin, Avery Martin, Sean Beal, Brittney Munos, Daniel Hinze, and Bryan Rutherford** for three delightful and humorous shows of Neil Simon's *Fools!* The two dinner theatres and matinee performance were attended by more than 150 people total. Special thanks to **Penny & Gary Rutherford, Jim & Myra Hinze, Don & Julie Martin, Mike & Gerri Munos, Christine, Eric & Alex Harm, Janet Lyman, Mark Beal & Teri Bushey** for all of your hard work cooking, serving, designing, building, painting, hosting and more!

Charles's Column

I hope that you found a quiet moment to read the half-sheet inserted in your worship bulletin last Sunday, "Faces of the Future." It is a promotional leaflet for the 2005 Thanksgiving Offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which is directed entirely to the higher education and theological education ministries of our denomination.

Supporting education has been at the heart of the Disciples movement since its beginnings on the American frontier. Our earliest leaders were well-educated people who knew intimately the vital importance of education in lives of faith.

Fourteen colleges and universities are related by covenant to our church as are seven theological institutions. Two of these twenty-one are located in Illinois—Eureka College and the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago.

Last month I was honored to be elected to a new three-year term on the Board of Trustees for the Disciples Divinity House at Chicago (DDH). Each time I attend a meeting and talk with the students there, I am encouraged about the future of our church and its ministry. While many who study there are preparing for careers in scholarship and teaching, there are a surprising number who are preparing for ministries in congregations. One of my fellow trustees is the Director of the Ministry Program at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Because of generations of generosity and visionary leadership, any Disciples of Christ student who meets the strict standards for admission to that Divinity School is welcome to live rent-free at Disciples Divinity House and receive a grant for full tuition and a small stipend for living expenses.

If I could take you with me to a Trustees' meeting, and if you could sit at a luncheon with the ministry students at DDH, you would come home with new excitement and commitment to the higher education ministries of our church. And then you would search your heart to make your most generous gift to the annual Thanksgiving Offering at Central, knowing that in supporting these colleges, universities, and seminaries, you are making a holy and worthy offering. I'll do my best for the Thanksgiving Offering, and I hope you will join me in doing your best also!

Charles Watkins

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 20. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, no later than Sunday, December 11 when they will be dedicated during our morning worship.

Thanksgiving Turkeys Needed

The Good Samaritan Inn is seeking donations of frozen turkeys for their annual Thanksgiving Turkey lunch for the poorest members of our community. If you would like to donate a 12-16 lb. turkey, you may either drop it off at the Inn which is located at 543 N. Water Street between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or you may bring it to the church and we will deliver it for you. If you have questions you may call **Kathleen Taylor** at 429-1455 or **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336.

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Natalie & Jamie Gower** on the November 10th birth of their daughter, **Josie Morgan**. Josie is also welcomed home by her big brother, **Riley** and proud grandparents **Dennis & Linda Zinn**.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Gerri & Mike Munos** & family following the death of Gerri's grandfather, *Les Campbell*.

Weaving Dreams – Mix in 06' Women's Event

With music, dance, humor and who knows what else these women will dream up, Dream Weavers will create connections throughout the worship, study, fellowship and fun of the Mix in '06 Women's Event, June 21-25, 2006, in Indianapolis. The Dream Weaver team is an extraordinary group of women gifted in the ministry of the arts: Kimberleigh Jordan, Curran Reichert, Janet Casey-Allen, Laura Hall (pianist from *Who's Line is it Anyway*). Go to www.dreamonsisters.com to register and learn more about the Mix in '06 Women's Event.

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. 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 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.



Counting On You

November 13

Worship Attendance 300
Sunday School Attendance 80

During the month of October, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$56,501 which is \$2,501 above the giving goal for the month.

Expenses to operate the church in October were \$67,068. Generous giving and income from permanent memorial funds reduced the accumulated operating deficit for 2005 by \$6,974 in October. Still, in the first ten months of this year, it has cost \$27,352 more to do the work of our church than our church has received.

All outreach commitments for October both locally and globally were paid in full.

Gifts to the *Proud of our Past... Focused on our Future* capital campaign during October were \$10,089. The church's total building debt stands at \$60,807.

Your regular and generous giving keeps Central going! We're counting on you! Be sure to do your best for your church, so that your church can do its best for God. Detailed monthly financial reports for the congregation and for the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter in the Friendship Center by the church office. You can pick up a copy and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



Sunday, November 20, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Craig Courtney, Piano
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
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
12:00-Church Thanksgiving Dinner,
Great Hall
3:00-**Craig Courtney Concert**,
Sanctuary
6:00-Decatur Youth Orchestra
Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Monday (21)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
4:00-Aerobics
7:30-Decatur Youth Orchestra Concert,
Sanctuary

Tuesday (22)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
4:00-Aerobics
5:00-Public Relations, Disciple Room
6:30-NWRAPS Potluck, Great Hall

Wednesday (23)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
10:00-Preschool Feast, Great Hall
Kitchen
12:00-Central Singers
12:30-Preschool Feast, Great Hall
Kitchen

2:00-ChristCare, 290
4:00-Aerobics
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 280

Thursday (24) Thanksgiving Day

Church & Office Closed

Friday (25)

Church & Office Closed

Saturday (26)

10:00-Greens Preparation, Disciple Rm.

Serving Schedule—November 20, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Bruce Campbell, Lois Whitaker

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 1 - Bob Wells, Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarret Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Fogerson Ropp

10:45 - Team 6 - Maxine Koenig, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

Greeters:

8:15 - Warren & Alice Brooks, Dennis & Debbie Downey

10:45 - John & Carol Graham, Larry & Deborah Foster

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Bill & Mary Alice Rule

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Jessica Brooks, Avery Martin

Children's Worship: Christine Lyman-Harm

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

Following Church Thanksgiving Dinner - Bruce Williams

November 23 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sarah Field, Patt Kuhns

Hosts:

Nov. 21 9:00-12:30 - Alice Brooks

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

Nov. 22 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders

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

Nov. 23 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Nov. 24 *Thanksgiving Day*

Church & Office Closed

Nov. 25 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
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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Central Christian Church
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