



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, November 30, 2005

No. 48

Service of Remembering 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.



Spirit of Christmas 2005

Just 10 names remain available for adoption in the Friendship Center for our *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2005. You may also participate by giving a cash donation to the program by marking your check made payable to the church with *Spirit of Christmas*. 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.

Come Home for Christmas

You and your family are invited to Come Home to Central on Sunday, December 18. During the worship services our special music will be provided by the Millikin Decatur Symphony Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Michael Luxner. Early risers will be treated to a breakfast of ham, hashbrown casserole, scrambled eggs, fruit salad and croissants, served between 7:15 and 7:45 a.m. in the Great Hall. A delicious Christmas luncheon will be served at noon, immediately following the second service. The menu is ham, party potatoes, peas and carrots, holiday salad, croissants and Christmas cake. More information and a response card should arrive in your mailbox this week. Deadline for registration for either meal is December 9. Mark your calendar and plan now to *Come Home to Central for Christmas!*

Sisters in Spirit December Gathering

Our December Sisters in Spirit Gathering will find us once again meeting at Mari-Mann Herb Farm where Maribeth King will talk to us about and present some examples of finger foods for the holidays. We will gather at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7th at the Farm, located at the north end of St. Louis Bridge Road. Participants are also invited to bring their own favorite finger food creations to share (both to eat and on recipe cards). The cost is \$4 per person and you may sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center or by calling the church office. Sisters in Spirit is a monthly gathering of Central women and is open to all who are interested. It is not a group in the traditional sense, but rather an opportunity to gather around specific interests and programs. Plan to join us and sign up in the Friendship Center!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Rumblings in the Wilderness

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11
Gretchen Barron

Pick Up Poinsettias This Sunday

If you ordered poinsettias earlier this fall as a fund raiser for future mission trips, 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 make a check by your name, so that we know you've picked them up. We thank you for your support of future mission trips and hope you enjoy the beautiful plants as they help bring holiday joy into your home!

Blessing of Baby & Dedication of Parents



The Hartwig family participated in the Blessing of Children & Dedication of Parents on Sunday, November 27.

Youth Column

CCC KIDS

Sunday, December 4th

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Games, snacks, friends
and fun!

Central Youth

Sunday, December 4th

5:30-7 p.m.

**Regular Meeting
and Game Table Fun.**

Bring money for a Fast
Food run and we will learn
about events coming later in
December and in January.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18th

5 p.m.

CCC KIDS and Central
Youth will bring "tidings of
comfort and cheer" to sev-
eral homes of church mem-
bers. Hot chocolate, finger
foods and goodies will be
waiting for us afterwards at
Pastor Robert's house.

Children's Christmas Workshop, December 10th

Registration forms for the
Children's Christmas Workshop need
to be turned in this Sunday, Decem-
ber 4th. The workshop will be held 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
3 p.m. Register for the workshop in
the Friendship Center this Sunday.

Music for a Merry Christmas

Christopher Brayne, vocal coach,
choral director, and organist/pianist from
England will present a concert of music for
this season on Central's pipe organ on
December 11 at 4:30 p.m. Invite your
neighbors and friends to come with you to
hear music for a merry Christmas!



Gretchen's Gleanings ...

The catalogue came in the mail, along with a handfull of others I received that day. Splashed across the cover were the words, "Something for Everyone!" Always the cynic, I had my doubts but the title had drawn me in and I began to flip through the pages. There were toys and games, electronics and tools, clothing and jewelry, knick-knacks and gourmet foods. There were books and CD's, household and personal items, artwork and collectibles and so much more. Yes, there probably was something for everyone. As I've looked over the calendar of activities and events for the coming month at Central Christian Church, I've thought the same thing – there is truly something for everyone. Did you see the list that was in your bulletin last Sunday? (If you didn't, there are more available in the Friendship Center). There are concerts and meals, the children's workshop and parent day out. There are wonderful, inspiring worship services on Sunday mornings and special services at other times. There are Sunday School classes for all ages, youth caroling activities and our annual traditions of Come Home for Christmas and the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Yes, if you were to sit and flip through the church calendar for the coming month, I'm sure you could find something for just about everyone! And so, to whom will you offer these gifts? Who on your list needs the inspiration and joy, spiritual enrichment, connection and community that Central offers through each of these events and activities? Who on your list needs to know, or hear again, of the great Good News of God that comes in an infant born in a manger? Who on your list of neighbors, friends, co-workers, acquaintances and family members might have their lives changed this year by a moment of inspiration or insight or decision while experiencing worship or fellowship with your church family? We hope that you will use that little green list that was in your bulletin last Sunday, not only as a reminder for yourself, but also as an invitation for someone else to come and experience the joy of the Advent and Christmas season at Central. We don't have a catalogue to sit and flip through, but we have something even better – a personal invitation from you to someone you care about. Share the season this year by inviting others to experience the Central Difference – there is truly something for everyone!

— **Gretchen**

All Deacons....

Due to changes in church services for Christmas Sunday, December 25, and New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, there will not be a scheduled deacon serving team. When serving deacons arrive at church, please stop by the parlor and check with the designated team captain to see if you are needed to help serve.

Thanks to all of you who have served this past year, both preparation and serving. You have made a valuable contribution to Central. Team captains and I sincerely appreciate your loyal and faithful service.

God Bless you, **Gene Garver**, Diaconate Chairman

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bill & Carol Charlton** following the November 23rd death of Bill's mother, *Nellie Charlton* of Kingsport, Tennessee.....and to the family and friends of *Jac R. Carrier*, following his death on November 27.

Dorcas Cookbooks for Sale

Are you looking for a last minute Christmas gift? The Dorcas Cookbook will be sold at the west entrance on Sundays, December 4 and 11. Each book is \$15 and is filled with delicious recipes made in the kitchens of the Dorcas ladies. Pick up several cookbooks for your family and friends!

Fun Timers on the Go to Sullivan

The Fun Timers, Central's "on the go" group for those 55 years and older, will head to Sullivan on December 21st for their Holiday Show matinee "The Magic of Christmas". We will join the talented performers of The Little Theatre On The Square for a magical adventure filled with beautiful songs, dances, comedy routines, and classic stories that will surely lift your spirits and challenge even Scrooge to leave the theatre without Christmas in his heart. Admission to the show is \$23. Tickets are limited and must be paid in advance. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. Following the show, we'll plan to stop at the Old School Market for a late lunch/early supper (lunch additional). Sign ups begin this Sunday in the Friendship Center or call the church office to reserve your ticket. For more information, see Pastor Gretchen.

Alternative Gift Giving Market Opens Sunday

You are invited to participate in the Alternative Gift Giving program for 2005 by making a tax-deductible donation to one of our seven worthy outreach organizations in honor of someone for the holiday season. This year you may 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.

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.



Sunday, December 4, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-
10:45 Offertory-
10:45 Anthem-
8:30-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
9:30-Jr. High Chimes, Music Room
4:30-Service of Memory & Hope,
Sanctuary
4:30-CCC Kids
5:30-Youth Group

Monday (5)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
4:00-Aerobics

Tuesday (6)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior
Pastor's Study
4:00-Aerobics
5:30-Mission Funding Meeting,
Disciple Room

Wednesday (7)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics

Thursday (8)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (9)

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

Saturday (10)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room
9:00-11:00-Children's Christmas
Workshop
11:00-3:00-Parents Day Out

Counting On You

November 27

Worship Attendance284
Sunday School Attendance 71

Serving Schedule—December 4, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Pat Ash, Keith Backes

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Jan Baird, 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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Kim Downey, Ryan Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey
10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Margaret Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:15 - Don & Rae Owens, Bruce & Liz Campbell
10:45 - Neil & Karen Baird, Larry & Sally Thicksten

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Keith & Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

8:15 - Andrew Otis
10:45 - Sean Beal

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar
10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Barbara Beyer, Karen Baird, Donna Dash, Jan & Ron Dobbs

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot
10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

December 7 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Juanita Clark, Sara Field

Hosts:

Dec. 5 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Maxine Koenig
Dec. 6 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling
12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford
Dec. 7 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
Dec. 8 9:00-12:30 - Charlie Harris
12:30-4:00 - Florence Bolin
Dec. 9 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders
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
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

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.



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

