



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, January 4, 2006

No. 1

## Epiphany Gifts for the Homeless

The Magi brought gifts of Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh to offer before the King of Kings after his humble birth. During the month of January, we will be collecting personal hygiene products for the Oasis Day Center for the homeless. Oasis offers a free shower to persons who do not have a place to take one and provides for simple hygiene needs for our community's poorest. A bin will be provided in the Friendship Center for your donations of travel or small size deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, bar soap, shampoo, moist towelettes, feminine hygiene supplies, men's & women's disposable razors, and shaving lotion. As we bow before the newborn King and prepare to serve and worship Christ the Lord, let us offer our gifts to those who need them most.

## Construction Zone!

The final project in the *Proud of our Past... Focused on our Future* Building Fund Campaign 2003-2006 is the



renovation of the Great Hall/Stage/Choir Room. These areas of our church look much like they did when they were built in 1955. With the funds you are contributing now to the building fund at Central, we hope to transform these areas into twenty-first century venues for ministry, art, and fellowship.

To accomplish these goals, we must relinquish use of these areas while they are under construction. There will be some dislocations and inconveniences during the first three months of 2006, but you have tolerated and transcended similar problems when we had to be out of the sanctuary for renovation in two previous winters.

If you are planning an event that would use the Great Hall between now and Easter, please contact the church office for help in scheduling it in some other area of the church building. Your additional gifts to the building fund will really help as we move toward the completion of this three-year campaign period.

## Elderberries to Meet Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>!

Begin the new year with Elderberries, Central's fellowship group for those at least 55 years young! We will meet at noon on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> in the Disciple Room (because of Great Hall Renovations). This month's menu is a January picnic with fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, fruit salad, and apple walnut cake with Cool Whip. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, we'll join in a fun game of BINGO. Feel free to bring "white elephant" type prizes. 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, January 9<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2006**  
**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**  
**Baptized and then... ?**

Text: Mark 1:4-11  
Charles Watkins

## Local Hunger Relief Task Force to Meet

Nearly thirty people have indicated interest in helping serve six weekend meals at the Good Samaritan Inn. During the recent allocation of funds from undesignated estate giving, a fund was established to help provide the meals in 2006. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Disciple Room. Those who have volunteered will be mailed a reminder this week.

## Super Subs for Mission in 2006

The Youth will be taking orders for Super Bowl Subs beginning Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Our Subs will sell for \$5 each with three meat choices and choice of toppings. Order forms will be in the worship bulletin beginning January 15 with delivery of our famous Subs on Super Bowl XL Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. This annual youth fundraiser provides support for scholarships for summer mission trips currently in planning.



## Youth Column

### Central Youth Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Lock-In

The season of Epiphany begins on January 6<sup>th</sup> and lasts until the beginning of Lent in March. Epiphany celebrates the revelation of God through Jesus, the Light of the World. Friday night, January 6<sup>th</sup> we will conduct our annual Epiphany Games (with prizes!) during a lock-in at the church. The event begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 7 a.m. on Saturday. Bring \$2, a flashlight and your favorite snack or dessert. Central Youth will not meet on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

### CCC KIDS & Central Youth Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> Ice Skating 1-3 p.m.

Meet at the Civic Center and bring \$4 for admission and \$1.50 for skate rental. Friends are welcome!

### CCC KIDS & Central Youth Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> Indoor Miniature Golf

CCC KIDS will tee-off at the church at 4:00 p.m. to play nine holes of miniature golf throughout the church. Youth (grades 6-12) will meet at 5:30 p.m. for supper and tee off at 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded! Friends are always welcome!

### Winter Youth Party Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 2-5 p.m.

#### First Christian Church of Sullivan

A fun break in your January "blahs." So make sure it's on your schedule, then go get the crew, grab some food, and get psyched to Bring it! Koinonia & Shalom Camp Reunions! Led by the Rev. Mike Dixon.

## Charles's Column

The impulse behind New Year's resolutions is the desire to have a better life, to be a better person, to improve oneself, to take a step up to the best that we know. Regardless of what you have identified as your fresh goals for self-improvement in 2006, your church is ready to stand beside you and work with you to help you become who you want to be.

First, of course, is the worship life of the congregation. If you set aside one hour at the first of each week to get in touch with God, to renew your covenant with the Lord Jesus at his Table of Holy Communion, to listen carefully to the Word proclaimed from scripture, and to have your spirit uplifted by inspiring and beautiful music from organ and choir and congregation, you will find the opportunity to refresh your soul and renew your hope. If you find your life too busy to set aside time daily for prayer and meditation, the service on Sunday establishes for you the spiritual discipline of speaking to and listening for God at least one time every week. Sunday morning worship is the chance to rise above the confusing ambiguities of life in the twenty-first century to a quieter, clearer, calmer place where you can put things into perspective. How does God view you and your life? What would Jesus do in your situation? What needs to happen to make you more truly God's person, God's servant, God's friend? Come to church and explore!

Second are the study opportunities available to you through your church to help you know more about the Bible and God's will for your life. There are classes for you and each member of your family every Sunday morning. In addition there are short-term courses and study opportunities that last from four to eight weeks throughout the year taught by one of the pastors or one of the lay leaders. You can study a book of the Bible, you can explore the spiritual gifts God has given you, or you can look at a theological topic or social concern of interest to you and other members.

Third are the fellowship and small group opportunities which Central provides for you. There are congregational events, usually associated with really good food, and there are smaller group events that give you a chance to get to know people that you have no other occasion to encounter. What do they think, how do they feel, what do they do with their lives? Might they be the next good friends you want to have as part of your life? Fellowship opportunities include field trips, gatherings at church and in homes and mission trips.

Fourth are the opportunities to serve in both the church and the world. The church always has jobs to fill and chores to be done, but there is also room at Central for you to declare what interests you and what you would like to see accomplished that you can make a personal contribution of time and talent and money to achieve. Sometimes you are the first one to notice that something needs to be accomplished, and by stepping forward, you become the catalyst for others to become involved in doing what needs to be done.

Central Christian Church wants to be your partner in 2006 to help you become what God wants you to be and what you want to be. Speak to one of the pastors this month, and let your church help you grow in faith and love and service.

*Charles Watkins*

## You Are Invited to Join Our Choirs

This would be a good time to step out and join the Chancel Choir, Central Singers (Ladies choir) or the Men's group. Some of our singers are spending time in the South for the winter months so there are some holes to fill. Please contact one of the choir members or **Don Martin** if you are interested.



**News From the Pews....**

Proud Great-grandparents, **Bill & Claudine Nichols** announce the December 31<sup>st</sup> birth of their great-grandson, **Mason Christopher**, born to **Adam & Michala Lynn** of Broken Arrow, Okalahoma. Grandparents are **David & Carol Nichols**.

**Note of Thanks Received**

We thank each and every one of you for the love and support you have shown us following Dallas's untimely death. The children and I lack adequate words to express how your kindnesses have comforted us. You are a model without equal of what a church and its people should be to one another. We are so grateful and honored to be a part of the Central Christian Church community.

*The Dallas Beyer Family*

**Convenience & Comfort for the MIX in '06!**

Nine hotels in walking distance of the Indiana Convention Center will be bustling with 5000 women heading for the Mix in '06 Women's Event in Indianapolis, IN June 21-25, 2006. The activity in the hotels and on the beautiful downtown streets of Indy will tell the city that the women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ are alive and well. Registration materials and a special welcome will be in each hotel. Those who register early will have the best chance of getting their favorite hotel. Hotel reservations may be made after registering for the event. For more information about the Mix in '06 and registration forms visit [www.dreamonsisters.com](http://www.dreamonsisters.com).

**Children's Worship Resumes This Sunday**

Now that school is back in session and the holiday season has passed, Children's Worship will resume this Sunday. CW will be available on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month during the 10:45 a.m. service for Children ages 5 yrs.-10 yrs. Children are invited to a special worship time after the Offertory Prayer during the 10:45am service. Children are to meet our CW Leaders in the Friendship Center.

**Offering Envelopes**

Did you receive a set of numbered offering envelopes for your gifts in 2006? If your set did not arrive, please phone the church office (428-4336) so that we can send your set this week. Using your numbered envelopes really helps the volunteers in the financial office. Please use your offering envelopes!



**Sunday, January 8, 2006**

- 8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
- Music: 8:15 Offertory-Don Martin
- 10:45 Offertory-Marilyn Ward, Piano
- 10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
- 8:30-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic
- 9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
- 9:30-Sunday School
- 11:15-Children's Worship, 250

**Monday (9)**

- 8:00-Wellness Walk
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 5:30-Peace & Justice Task Force, Disciple Room
- 6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

**Tuesday (10)**

- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
- 11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room
- 1:15-ChristCare, 218
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 5:30-Worship Dept., Parlor

**Wednesday (11)**

- 9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
- 12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Disciple Room
- 12:00-Central Singers
- 1:30-3:00-Low Vision Support, 280
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 5:30-C.A.C.S. Dept., 280
- 6:30-Hunger Relief Task Force, Disciple Room

**Thursday (12)**

- 10:00-Alanon, 212
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 7:00-Prairieland Investors, 212
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

**Friday (13)**

- 8:00-Wellness Walk
- 2:00-ChristCare, 290

**Saturday (14)**

- 7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

**Counting On You**

**January 1**

Worship Attendance .....247

**Serving Schedule—January 8, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Julie Martin, Linda Kuhns

**Communion to Shut-Ins:**

**Deacons**

Charlotte Ballance

Jane Davis

Andy Fulk

Sherri Hood

Paula Hovey

Bob Keller

Karen Keller

Debbie Seaberg

**Elders**

Pat Ash

Jan Baird

Carol Graham

Mary Jane Linton

Kevin Otis

Larry Otis

Bob Smith

Cindy Soebbing

Tom Spry

Shirley Swarhout

Alternate: Larry Thicksten

**Deacons:**

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

**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 - Becky Johnston, Virginia Griffith, Bob & Chloe Hoaglin

10:45 - Jim, Myra, Daniel, Megan Hinze

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Bill & Carol Charlton

**Children's Worship:** Teri Bushey

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

**Preparation of Communion:**

Becky Johnston, Bob & Phyllis Logan, Carole & Francis Songer

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andrew Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

**January 11 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

**Hosts:**

Jan. 9 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Jan. 10 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Jan. 11 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Jan. 12 9:00-12:30 - Charlie Harris

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

Jan. 13 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders

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

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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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