



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, January 11, 2006

No. 2

## **Millikin Chamber Chorale Presents Concert at Central**

Millikin Chamber Chorale under the direction of **Guy Forbes** will present a concert in the sanctuary of Central Christian Church on **Sunday, January 15** at **7:00 p.m.** The chorale has just returned from their winter tour. For the last few years they have presented their homecoming concert at our church. Come and invite your friends for an evening of excellent choral music and to support the work of the student musicians at Millikin University.

## **Are You Ready to Get Out of the Boat?**

Have you been looking for ways to learn more about what God calls all of us to do? Would you like to get to know others from Central a bit better? Then come and join us for a ten week study of John Ortberg's book *If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. It is based on Peter's experience when he did get out of the boat and walk on water for at least a few seconds! Ortberg says "There is always a call. God asks an ordinary person to engage in an act of extraordinary trust, that of getting out of the boat. There is always fear. God has an inextinguishable habit of asking people to do things that are scary to them." Ortberg challenges readers to go for a walk — on the water. This new group will begin meeting Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30- to 8:00 p.m. at the home of **Coleen and Mike Myers**. You'll have an opportunity to share, question, learn and discover as you read through this book and gather weekly to grow with other Christians. There are no experts — we'll learn together. Books will be available at a discounted rate of \$12 each. Please join us. You may register for this study group by calling the Myers or signing up in the Friendship Center this Sunday.

## **CCC FRIENDS a New Ministry of Friendship Making**

A new ministry is taking form at Central for children, youth, adults and families. The mission of this new ministry is to grow friendships with one another and with God. In today's world making friends is a different proposition than it was several years ago, and many of us are not even sure what it takes to build mutually satisfying friendships. Using materials from Friendship First, a small group ministry that compares our friendships with others to the friendship we are called to seek with our Lord Jesus Christ, we will explore how to make new friendships and strengthen those we already have. Through weekly gatherings centered around food, scripture, prayer and laughter, participants will grow in their relationship with God. A meeting for those who may be interested in participating in CCC FRIENDS will be held in the Sanctuary at 9:30AM this Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring your calendar and we'll begin growing our friendship with God.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

**Come and See**

Text: John 1:43-51

Charles Watkins

## **Building on a Firm Foundation!**

A new study group, which focuses on the foundations of our faith, will begin Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Participants will focus on a different question of faith each week for ten weeks. Questions include: So, Is This All there Is?; What Happens When I Die?; Can I Trust God?; How Does God Speak to Me?; How Can I Make a Life and Not Just a Living? and much more. This study is for everyone — whether you're new to the faith or a seasoned veteran, it will allow you to take a fresh look and ask questions of your faith in a warm and relaxed setting. Each session includes a meal, a video presentation and group discussion. Cost for group materials is just \$12 (includes two separate books) and a basket will be available each week for donations to help offset the cost of the meal. Childcare will be available in the church nursery and children are invited to join the group during the mealtimes. This is also an excellent opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor or family member to experience the Central difference and grow in their faith and understanding. More information, a complete schedule and registration forms are available in the Friendship Center. Be part of the excitement ... sign up today!

## Youth Column

### CCC KIDS & Central Youth

Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

### Ice Skating at the Decatur Civic Center Open Skate 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.

## 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 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 camp and summer mission trips currently in planning.

## Charles's Column

The liturgical season of Epiphany is one of the least observed and poorest attended of all the church's festivals. Coming immediately after the famous and beloved season of Christmas, there's no Epiphany extravaganza to attract attention and win interest, although I once knew an Epiphany Lutheran Church in Southern Illinois that sponsored a mass burning of all the discarded Christmas trees from the parish on the church parking lot on January 6. Now that was a real celebration of light...and heat!

Still Epiphany doesn't even get its own space in the church year: it varies in length according to when Easter comes. Advent always gets four full weeks, Christmas always gets twelve days, Lent always lasts forty days (plus Sundays), but if Easter comes early in the spring, then Epiphany gets shortened so that Lent can start on time. Like the late Rodney Dangerfield, Epiphany gets "no respect," even though, except for Easter, it is the oldest festival in the church year. But without Epiphany, the wonderful truth of Christmas never gets beyond the manger.

At Christmas we rejoice in God's amazing decision to be born in human flesh to a human mother and to share in every way the humanity of all those whom God intends to save. Mary and Joseph knew about it, a few shepherds knew about it, but that was about it. What was missing was recognition of who Jesus was in the wider world.

And so, on Epiphany, enter the mysterious wise men from somewhere in the East, possibly Iran or Iraq. These exotic students of the heavens were so far outside God's covenant with Israel that for them to be the first to know that a new king of the Jews had been born was really a reproach to all believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Then at the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan by John, the heavens are torn apart and God's own voice declares Jesus to be the beloved son with whom God is well pleased. At that point, if not before, Jesus definitely understands that he has a unique place and role in the history of salvation.

Then through the rest of epiphany, we read stories about how one person "gets it," and then another, and then another. What's really important, of course, is the extent to which each of us "gets it." To receive an "epiphany" is to apprehend in a personal way the unique thing God was doing in Jesus. If Christmas is about God's revelation through the Word made flesh, then Epiphany is about our understanding what God is up to. Understanding anything about God is not really that easy, so we probably need to pay a great deal of attention to discovering what God's gift of Christ to us means in a personal way. I hope you are among those who "get it" during these weeks of the holy season of Epiphany.

*Charles Watkins*

## Fit Lunch Club

Did you resolve to eat healthier, exercise more, lose some weight in 2006? If you did, or if you should have but did not, or even if you already do, then you may want to join **Pastor Robert** for lunch on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning, January 24<sup>th</sup>. We will begin gathering in the Disciple Room at 11:45 a.m. (or later if you need to) and conclude by 1 p.m. (or earlier if you need to). Bring your own lunch (I will have a veggie tray, some fruit available, and you may purchase soda or bottled water for 50 cents), and your resolve to be healthy and we will share tips for weight loss (no weighing in), pray together, and you even receive a free gift if you sign up on Sunday or call in your reservation by Sunday, January 22.

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of *Doris Bower*, following her death on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Preschool News

The children have returned to their classes following the Christmas break. Our enrollment has increased slightly since September. We have 5 two year olds, 20 three year olds, 28 four year olds, and 9 five year olds for a total of 62 children.

January is a quieter month. It is a good time to review learned skills, make a snowman picture and take a field trip to Rock Springs Center to learn about *Animals in Winter*. Before we know it, Valentines Day will be here followed soon by Spring, Easter, warmer weather and outdoor play.

Thank you for your interest and support of Central Christian Preschool.

-*Jean Pease*, Preschool Director

## 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 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 is 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.

## Finishing 2005

Central ended December with an accumulated operating deficit of \$25,000. That's wonderful news considering some of the frightening figures earlier in the year, and the church is truly grateful to those who gave extra gifts and stretched their generosity in December to help get all our ministries through the year. Still, the remaining deficit could be completely wiped out if those who did not complete the giving plans indicated on their 2005 Giving Cards could complete those plans. The entire deficit can still be wiped out if each of us takes action in January to fulfill the commitments we made. Your check marked "2005" will be credited to your giving record in 2006, but can still help clear up the year-end deficit that remains. Thank you for all your gifts!

## Giving Acknowledgements Coming Soon!

Volunteers in Central's Contributions Office are preparing an itemized list of all your gifts to the church in 2005. Watch your mail this week or next for your list. The statement is your official receipt for tax purposes of all your gifts.

Also please check the final line on the acknowledgement showing "Pledge Balance." The amount on that line under the "Operating 2005" column is the amount that would finish up your giving plan for last year. The amount on that line under "Bldg 2003-2006" is what is left of your three-year building fund commitment for the *Proud of our Past... Focused on our Future Campaign* that ends on March 31 of this year.



## Sunday, January 15, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Leslie Peart, Organist  
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  
1:00-3:00-CCC Kids & Youth Ice Skating, Decatur Civic Center  
4:30-Chamber Chorale Set Up  
6:00-"*To Kill a Mockingbird*", First Presbyterian Church  
7:00-Millikin Chamber Chorale Concert, Sanctuary

## Monday (16)

*Church & Office Closed*

6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

## Tuesday (17)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

11:30-Ecumenical Clergy Lunch,

Disciple Room

1:15-ChristCare, 218

## Wednesday (18)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280

12:00-Central Singers

2:00-ChristCare, 290

5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room

6:30-Fellowship Dept., Disciple Room

## Thursday (19)

10:00-Alanon, 212

7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (20)

8:00-Wellness Walk

## Now Showing:

### To Kill a Mockingbird

The Peace & Justice film series is on the road this weekend. The 1962 film *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be shown this Sunday at First Presbyterian Church at 6 pm. Desert will be served before the film and popcorn will be available during the movie. There is no cost for the event.

**Serving Schedule—January 15, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Jan Dobbs, Brett Swallow

**Deacons:**

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Sherri Hood, Paula Hovey, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, David Shields, Max Sperry

10:45 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Katie Beal, Mark Beal, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Jon French, Dee Hill, Louellen Lusk, Karen McFadin, David Miller, Katie Miller, Janice Mitchell, 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 - Larry & Gail Prince, Betty Cox, Mary Kincaid

10:45 - Wayne Honeycutt, Gary & Penny Rutherford

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Harold & Bess King

**Acolytes:**

8:15 - Sarah Funk, Sam Funk

10:45 - Avery Martin

**Children's Worship:** Christine Lyman-Harm

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jordan Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

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

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

**January 18 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Sara Field, Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

Jan. 16 **Martin Luth King, Jr. Day**

*Church & Office Closed*

Jan. 17 9:00-12:30 - Dottie Scholes

12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor

Jan. 18 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Jan. 19 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Jan. 20 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance

12:30-4:00 - Juanita Reynolds

**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  
 Katie Beal ..... Childcare Coordinator  
 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**

**January 8**

Worship Attendance ..... 334

Sunday School Attendance ..... 82



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

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