



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, January 18, 2006

No. 3

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*. Ortberg challenges readers to go for a walk — on the water. This new group will begin meeting Tuesday, January 31st from 6:30-8:00 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.

Building on a Firm Foundation!

A new study group, which focuses on the foundations of our faith, will begin Thursday, February 2nd, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Participants will focus on a different question of faith each week for ten weeks. This study is for everyone — those new to the faith or seasoned veterans, 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. A minimum of six participants is required for this study. More information and a sign-up sheet are available in the Friendship Center.

Super Subs for Mission in 2006

The Youth will be taking orders for Super Bowl Subs this Sunday, January 22nd. 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 5th. This annual youth fundraiser provides support for scholarships for camp and summer mission trips currently in planning.

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. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

A Tall Tale of Truth

Text: Jonah 3:1-5 & 10

Charles Watkins

Serving Board Officers 2006

Congratulations and thanks to the following officers leading serving boards at the Central in 2006.

Board of Elders

Connie Bordner, Chair
Julie Martin, Vice-Chair
Larry Pepper, Secretary

Board of Deacons

Richard Ward, Chair
Chloe Hoaglin, Vice-Chair
for Preparation Teams
Kelly Swallow, Vice-Chair for
Serving Teams

Board of Trustees

Dale Ford, Chair
Lucy L. Smith, Vice-Chair
Doug Soebbing, Secretary
Pat Ash, Assistant Secretary
Ron Oliver, Treasurer
Steve Swarouth, Assistant
Treasurer

Chief of Ushers

Ed Acheson

Violin-Piano Concert
with Susan Cobb, Pianist
& Tom LeVeck, Violinist
Sunday, February 5th
4:30 p.m.
in Central's Sanctuary

Youth Column

CCC KIDS & Central Youth

Sunday, January 22nd 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 29th 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.

Saturday, February 4th Sub Shop

10 a.m. - Noon

Youth grades 6-12 will build our famous Super Bowl Subs for delivery on Sunday, February 5th.

Sunday, February 5th Super Bowl Party

Pastor Robert's House

Watch the Super Bowl on an 8x8 ft. Screen with Surround Sound!

Watch this spot for times, etc. coming soon!



Charles's Column

The Revised Common Lectionary is a list of readings from the Bible that sets out four suggested lections for each Sunday in the year: a lesson from the Hebrew scriptures, a Psalm that is related to that first reading, a lesson from the gospels, and a lesson from the epistles. There have always been lectionaries used by various Christian communities, but the one we use at Central began to be developed forty years ago by the Second Vatican Council which ordered lectionary revision for the Roman Catholic Church:

The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the Table of God's Word. In this way a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people over a set cycle of years.

This action by the Roman Catholic Church spurred Protestants to look more seriously at the place of the Bible in their services and sermons. Then through various developments ecumenically, the Consultation on Common Texts agreed on revisions that are now widely accepted by both Protestants and Catholics all around the world. That's why, when you go out to lunch on Sunday with your Methodist or Lutheran or Catholic friends, it is often likely that you each heard the same lesson read and preached in your separate churches that morning.

Although every preacher in our church is free to use one of the selected texts to build the service around each Sunday, we are also free to select other lessons whenever we see the need for something else. But the discipline of using the appointed lessons forces the preacher to study and proclaim texts that she might never choose herself. And it frees the congregation from hearing the preacher use only his favorite texts.

Once every three years, the Revised Common Lectionary includes a single reading from the Book of Jonah, my very favorite book in all the Bible, on the Third Sunday After the Epiphany in Year B. So guess what! I get to preach from my favorite book this coming Sunday. If it weren't for the lectionary, you'd probably be hearing about Jonah from me once a month or so.

Let me invite you into partnership with me for this Sunday's service. Please find half an hour this week to read the entire Book of Jonah in your Old Testament—all four pages of it. Consider what the book tells you about Jonah and what it tells you about Nineveh the conquering empire on the Tigris River and, most important, what it tells you about God. And then together this Sunday let's see what this grouchy prophet's experience has to do with our own lives.

-Charles Watkins

Mix in '06 Shares Martin Luther King's Dream!

What is the dream that is deep in your heart? The Mix in '06 Women's Event will embody the dream of justice and peace that is celebrated this month. Join the women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ for this exciting event in Indianapolis, IN, June 21-25. Online information and registration forms are available at: www.dreamonsisters.com.

Have you Seen the Central Difference?

Do you know that Central has its own video, entitled *The Central Difference*? Although the ten minute video, produced several years ago, shows many of our members who have passed from us, it is still an excellent tool to share with friends, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances who may be looking for a new church home in the Decatur area. *The Central Difference* will be showing in the Friendship Center this Sunday. Copies are available in VHS or DVD format. Speak with **Pastor Gretchen** for more information.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Connie and Tim Ogden** following the death of her father, *G. Murrall Compton* on January 12 and to **Jim DeZarn** following the death of his sister, *Mary Hensley* in Monticello, Indiana on January 13.

Congratulations to **Mark & Angelia Maxeiner** of Quincy on the birth of their son, **Reece Thomas** on January 15. Grandparents are **Dave & Nita Phillips** and the late *Tom Maxeiner*.

Spirit of Christmas Thanks

Recently we received the following notes of thanks from families served by Decatur Township Assistance:

Thank you for helping us have a wonderful Christmas.

The Chicory Family

Thank you, Thank you! My family and I would like to thank you for blessing us and making our Christmas happy. Thank you and God Bless you!

The Arbutus Family

No words can express the joy my grandson had on Christmas morning. He has spent countless hours playing with all his new toys. Most of them have been playing with his Hotwheels race track. He said it was a "super dooper" Christmas. In his prayer at Christmas dinner, he asked Jesus to bless the person or people who made his Christmas so special.

My shoes are perfect, they feel like they were made just for me. The John Denver tape was beyond my expectations. It comforts me, oh the memories. He serenades me to sleep at night, and soothes me in traffic. Thank you so very much for all the wonderful gifts. Especially the ones for my grandson.

Gratefully, **Donna Bluebell**

Thank you Central for generously sharing the Spirit of Christmas!

Evangelism Seeds

How many times have we heard someone say, at a concert, worship service or other event at Central, "My, this is a beautiful church!" How would you respond to such a statement in a way that opens the possibility for conversation about your church? One thing you might say is, "Yes, it is a beautiful facility, but the real beauty of our church exists in it's caring and generous people," and then go on to relate a personal story of why Central is so important to you.

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 24th. We will begin gathering in the Disciple Room at 11:45 a.m. (or later if you need to) and conclude by 1:00 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 22nd.



Sunday, January 22, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-The Ministers Four
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
4:00-CCC Kids Indoor Mini Golf
5:30-Youth Indoor Mini Golf

Monday (23)

8:00-Wellness Walk
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (24)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
11:45-Fit Lunch Club, Disciple Room
1:15-ChristCare, 218
7:00-Dorcas, home of Diane Reed

Wednesday (25)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-Public Relations Pictorial Directory Meeting, Parlor
2:00-ChristCare, 290
5:30-Stephen Ministers, home of Linda Kuhns
5:30-Operations Dept., Disciple Room
6:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room
7:00-Capital Campaign Meeting, Disciple Room

Thursday (26)

10:00-Alanon, 212
6:00-Mix in '06 Planning Meeting, Volunteer Room
6:30-Hunger Relief Task Force, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (27)

8:00-Wellness Walk

Counting On You

January 15

Worship Attendance 295
Sunday School Attendance 63

Serving Schedule—January 22, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Cindy Soebbing, Kevin Otis

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 Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, 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

Greeters:

8:15 - Steve & Juanita Ballance, Bob & Wanda Webb

10:45 - Mary Boyle, David Ash, Ron & Mary Jane Oliver

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Avery Martin

Children's Worship: Katie Powers

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams
10:45 service only - Karen Baird

January 25 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Patt Kuhns

Hosts:

Jan. 23 9:00-12:30 - Alice Brooks
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Jan. 24 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Jan. 25 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Jan. 26 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor

Jan. 27 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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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