



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, February 22, 2006

No. 6



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, begins the holy season of Lent with its forty days (plus Sundays) of preparation for Easter. An opportunity to begin the Lenten season with prayer, communion, and ashes will be offered in the sanctuary from 5:00-6:00 p.m. As you are ready, you may come up to the Lord's Table to receive communion and then you may choose to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on your forehead. A more structured, liturgical service will be led from 6:00-6:45 with a final opportunity at the end to come forward to receive communion and ashes. Childcare for young children will be provided during the 6:00 service.

Sisters in Spirit to Welcome Pet Partners, Wednesday, March 1st

Sisters in Spirit, Central's newest group for women, will gather at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1st, in the Disciple Classroom, with a new four-legged friend. **Sharon Andrews**, a licensed animal evaluator and volunteer instructor, will present the program and Samantha, a certified therapy dog, will be on hand to greet the group. Hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers are sometimes places that are cold, frightening and lonely for their residents and patients. Learn how the Delta Society's Pet Partners Program trains volunteers and screens volunteers and their pets for visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and other facilities. Learn how these specially trained animals help to transform a life of discouragement, fear and sadness into one of happiness, independence and hope. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday.

Church Family Pictorial Directory

Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center or online at www.signup.olanmills.com (use the church phone # 217-428-4336) to be included in the 2006 Central Family Pictorial Directory with updated photos of new and familiar faces, updated addresses and phone numbers, a new birthday and anniversary roster all in a handsome hardbound keepsake. Olan Mills Photographers will be here to take pictures for the directory on March 28-29, April 3-4 and May 25-26. Plan now to be a part of the Central Family Album.

Family Fun by the Fireplace!

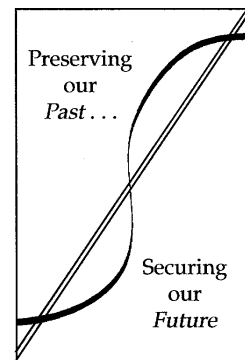
The Central family will gather around the Friendship Center fireplace for an evening of fun, games and snacks Saturday, February 25th from 6-8 p.m. Various games will be available on tables around the room, including a young children's area in the Welcome Center. Each family is asked to bring a finger food or favorite snack to share. Beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Department. If you have a favorite game that you would like to teach others, please feel free to bring it as well. Plan now to join us by the fireplace for an enjoyable evening of fun and games!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Transfigured!

Text: Mark 9:2-9
Charles Watkins



Gearing Up for Capital Campaign

This week dedicated volunteers are being recruited for Central's March building fund campaign 2006-2009. This campaign is dedicated to "Preserving our Past...Securing our Future." The key to achieving the support our church needs in this effort is in the hands of those who say "yes" to an invitation to participate in enlisting three-year commitments of giving to the capital fund.

Register Your Child for Preschool

Registration for the 2006-07 Pre-school year will be held in the Nichols Education Wing on Tuesday, March 7th and Wednesday, March 8th, from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. This time is for church members and families already enrolled. Open registration, for the public, will be held the following week. If you are interested in registering a child, but are not available during these hours, please call the church (428-4336) and talk with **Jean Pease**, the Preschool Director.

Youth Column

Central Youth
Sunday, February 26th
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Central Youth, grades 6-12, will meet at The Point on Sunday. Bring \$2 for pizza and your calendars!

Wednesday, February
29th

CCC Friends
5:30-8:00 p.m.

Our new mid-week friendship making ministry meets on Wednesday evenings. Groups for Elementary, Jr. High & High School are offered. Join us this week for supper, worship and growing friendships with each other and with God.

Family Theater Outing
Sunday, March 12th
2:00 p.m.
Decatur Park District
Storyteller Theater's
Aladdin

We have a dozen tickets to this wonderful show! Sign up with Pastor Robert. Our own **Jessica Brooks** has a role in the production.

Fit Lunch Club Meets
Tuesday, February 25
11:45 a.m.
Disciple Room

Evangelism Seeds

Do you know someone who is searching for something meaningful in life? Help them find what they are looking for by inviting them to experience the Central Difference!

Charles's Column

I have a professional hobby. I like to watch people doing theology "on the fly." It is most interesting to me when people are in crisis, but I am also alert to what people think and say about God in casual conversation. It's a professional hobby, because I have more opportunities as a minister to listen to people when they are talking about God than lots of others do.

I think that what we really believe about God comes out often in what we say in every day conversation. If we believe that God is a prankster or a manipulator or a mean-spirited revenge-taker, then that conviction will show itself in the jokes we laugh at and in the serious observations we make about God's role in our lives. If, in the face of tragedy and disaster, we believe that God has a hand in causing what hurts us, we will say things like, "Well, we just have to accept what happens because it is God's will."

But then perhaps a Disciple who truly knows and loves God may say, "No, I don't think that this terrible event is God's doing." And then I am fully engaged in listening and often in admiring the excellent theology (thinking about God) that you do "on the fly," in the moment, in the midst of a situation, in an emergency room, at a funeral, outside the doctor's office.

Of course, I am still interested in formal theology, in well crafted arguments about God's character and activity. But I am more and more convinced that what really matters is what regular people believe and say about God in the normal business of living their lives day by day.

When I hear someone doing excellent theology in the midst of living the joy and sorrow of every day, I am often impressed with the excellent understanding and deep faith of members of this congregation. When someone tells me that I have had a part in making such fine theologians, then I am hugely complimented and encouraged.

I love listening to you talk about God. I enjoy watching you think about God. And I am proud of how your faith stands up in the marketplace of ideas and affirms that our Mighty God is a God of love and power and grace. Thank you for the joy you give me in offering your family and friends a true alternative to the popular and erroneous notions about God that permeate our culture.

Charles Watkins

Bill Moutray in Concert at Central

Bill Moutray will appear in concert *With a Little Help from My Friends* in Central's sanctuary on March 12 at 4:30 p.m. Bill will sing some of his favorite songs and many of your favorites as well. The concert will include popular songs, show tunes, spiritual songs and religious classics. The concert is free and open to the public including all your neighbors and friends whom you invite.



Mix Up Your Spare Change for the Mix in '06

This Sunday you will find a large jug on the Women's Ministry Table in the Friendship Center. We invite you to drop your spare change in the jug each week or month as together we mix up our change for our Mix in '06 scholarship fund. This is part of an on-going fund raising emphasis for this significant women's event. The Mix in '06, is so named because women from both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ will participate together June 21-25 in Indianapolis, IN. Over 5000 women are expected to share together in uplifting mission, energizing fellowship, challenging study and inspiring worship. You'll also want to stop by the Women's Ministry Table for more information and registration forms for the event.

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Brian & Kirsten Kilday** of Plainfield, IL on the February 5th birth of their daughter, **Hannah Belle**. Proud grandparents are **Bill & LeEtta Bass**, great-grandma is **Etta Dash**, and great-aunt is **Donna Dash**.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Connie & Bill Bordner** following the February 14th death of Bill's father, *Paul Bordner*..... to **Juanita Clark, Bev & Robert Dondeville** and family following the death of *Curtis Clark* on February 15..... and to **Charlotte Lyon**, family and friends of **Barbara Cross**, following her death on February 21.

Last Chance to Sign Up for Dinner for Eight

Dinner for Eight Groups are gatherings of Central adult members or friends (usually eight, give or take a few) that gather in someone's home to share a wonderful dinner, fellowship and a time of getting to know one another. Usually the host family agrees to prepare the main course and others bring side dishes. We are now signing people up for a group that will meet once in either March, April or May. If you would like to host a group or do telephone calling to the group members, mark that preference on the sign up sheet. Sign up this Sunday!

Bowling League Celebrates Fifth Season

The Central Monday Night Mixed League concluded the regular season and enjoyed our fifth League Awards Banquet on Monday, February 6th at the Forsyth Community Center. Forty bowlers making up eight teams of three players and 16 subs bowled for 16 weeks.

The Lo Rollers (**Dean Hadden** and **Andrew Eiffert** and **Keith Backes**) were awarded First Place at the banquet, the Holy Rollers (**Bob Logan, Ron & Mary Jane Oliver**, and **Pam Ferguson**) finished in second place, and the Academia Nuts (**Ed & Lucy Acheson & Mark Beal**) finished in third place. **Bob Logan** swept the Men's High Scores with an average of 197, a high game of 256 and a high series of 686. **Judy Ford** claimed the Women's High average of 145 and high series of 515 and **Theresa Fulk** claimed the Women's High game of 203.

Congratulations to all of our bowlers for another great season of fellowship and fun competition! Thank you to **Ron Oliver** and **Bob Logan** for serving as league secretaries for the 2005-2006 season. The league looks forward to resuming play in September.

Counting On You

February 19

Worship Attendance 242
Sunday School Attendance 69

Central ended last month with a positive cash balance in the general operating fund for the first time in this century. In January the church received 99% of the income anticipated for the month and spent 94% of what was budgeted. If we can do that eleven more times this year, Central's long history of deficit spending can come to an end. The church's building fund debt stands at \$37,873. If all commitments to the *Proud of our Past... Focused on our Future* building fund campaign 2003-2006 are fulfilled by the end of next month, the church can be free of all debt. Detailed financial reports from the church treasurer and the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter by the church office in the Friendship Center.



Sunday, February 26, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Manly Mallard, Guitar
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Michael Brown, Tenor; Manley Mallard, Guitar; Leslie Peart, Organ
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse, Lucy Acheson
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
5:30-Youth, The Point

Monday (27)

8:00-Wellness Walk
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:00-CCC Friends, Pastor Robert's home
8:15-Basketball, Webster-Cantrell Hall

Tuesday (28)

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
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-NWRAPS, Disciple Room
6:30-Dorcas, Anna B. Millikin Home
6:30-Bible Study, Coleen & Mike Myer's home

Wednesday (March 1)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:00-6:00-*Ash Wednesday Meditation*
5:30-CCC Friends, Disciple Room, 240-280, Parlor, The Point
6:00-*Ash Wednesday Service*
7:00-Sisters in Spirit, Disciple Room

Thursday (2)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Preschool Board, 280
6:00-Bell Choir, 290
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (3)

8:00-Wellness Walk

Serving Schedule—February 26, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Connie Bordner, Mary Jane Linton

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Carol Graham

Decatur Memorial: Shirley Swarouth

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 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 - Morris & Willie Birkhead, Darla & Norm Lienemann

10:45 - Lilabelle Traylor, Pamela Ferguson, Dale & Judy Ford

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Parish Nurse:

Lucy Acheson

Children's Worship:

Kim Miller

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brittney Munos 10:45 - Avery Martin, Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar 10:45 - Jordan Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Mary Jane Oliver, Jim & Myra Hinze, Mark & Nancy McAfee, Suzie Miller

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

March 1 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Juanita Clark, Sara Field

Hosts:

Feb. 27 9:00-12:30 - Sara Field
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Feb. 28 9:00-12:30 - Darla Lienemann
12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor

Mar. 1 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Mar. 2 9:00-12:30 - Betty March
12:30-4:00 - Shirlee Johnson

Mar. 3 9:00-12:30 - Bonnie Sauer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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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