



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, March 8, 2006

No. 8

Bill Moutray in Concert This Sunday

Central is proud to present **Bill Moutray** in concert this Sunday afternoon, March 12, at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Bill calls this concert *With a Little Help from My Friends* and includes popular favorites by Barry Manilow, Roger Whittaker, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Hoagy Carmichael, Cole Porter, and Andrew Lloyd Weber. The program will also include gospel songs, spirituals, and sacred classics. Most are selections Bill likes to sing and ones you like to hear.



Bill has performed for many years in churches, on stage, and in various other venues including weddings and civic celebrations. Join his many fans and admirers this Sunday afternoon for this exciting concert.

Last Chance to Sign Up for Pictorial Directory

This Sunday is the last opportunity to sign up in the Friendship Center to be included in the 2006 Pictorial Directory. You may also sign up online at www.signup.olanmills.com (use the church phone # 217-428-4336). Olan Mills Photographers will be here to take pictures for the directory on March 28-29, April 3-4 and May 25-26. Each family pictured will be able to pick the picture for the directory, receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free copy of the directory. There is no obligation to buy anything. There are no follow-up sales contacts as a result of your participation in the Church Family Pictorial Directory. Plan now to be a part of the Central Family Album.

Habitat Fund Raiser Dinner

Habitat will have it's 4th Annual Chicken Dinner on Sunday, March 26th. The meals will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Masonic Temple (224 West William Street). Take out meals are also available. The \$7 tickets may be purchased from a Habitat member this Sunday in the Friendship Center. All meals include ½ grilled chicken, potato salad, baked beans, roll and drink.

Lasagna Take-Out Dinner Proceeds to Provide Scholarships for Central Women

Central's Dream Team, the planning group for the Mix in '06 Women's Event, is selling tickets this Sunday for a take-out Lasagna Dinner on Sunday, April 2nd. Tickets are \$5 and each meal includes Lasagna, Tossed Salad with Dressing, Garlic Bread and a Homemade Dessert. Meals may be picked up following either service on Sunday, April 2nd. With the change to Daylight Savings Time the night before, you'll lose an hour so let us do your cooking for you on that day! All profits will go toward the Mix in '06 Scholarship Fund for Central women. Tickets are also available throughout the week in the church office.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

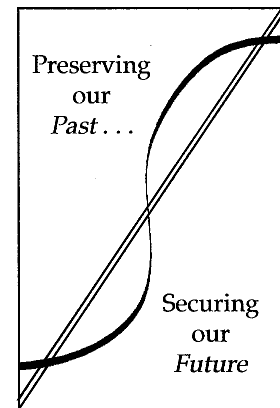
Son on the Altar

Text: Genesis 22:1-3; Romans 8:31-39

Charles Watkins

Lenten Devotional Booklets

At Central's Ash Wednesday service last week, *Fellowship of Prayer* booklets of Lenten devotional meditations were distributed. These booklets are available in the narthex for your use in daily meditation and prayer through the remainder of the season of Lent.



When the current capital funds campaign begins its second week next Sunday, volunteers on the calling teams will gather in the Disciple Room at 6:00 p.m. March 12 to receive calling assignments and additional information about the campaign. A light snack supper will be available for volunteers. The meeting is expected to last about half an hour. These volunteers will be contacting each member of Central to invite your participation in the 2006-2009 Building Fund with a three-year pledge of support.

**Central Youth
Wednesday, March 15th
CCC FRIENDS
5:30-8 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 p.m.
Decatur Park District
Storyteller Theater's
Aladdin**

We have a few tickets to this wonderful show! Contact Pastor Robert today. Our own **Jessica Brooks** has a role in the production.

S'more Fun!

Sunday, March 19th

Central Youth grades 6-12 will meet for fellowship, Camp Registration, and making s'mores at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 19th. Wear your camp t-shirt if you have one.

**Summer Church Camp
Preview Schedule**

Genesis (grades 2-3) - June 5-7

Shalom (9-12) - June 12-17

Koinonia (3-8) - June 26-July 1

ADDaM (8-12) - July 23-30

Bridge Builders (8-12) - Aug. 9-13

Early Registration=Cheaper Fees!

Most week long camps cost between \$215-\$250. Scholarships are available up to $\frac{1}{2}$ cost for participating members but may NOT be used to cover Late Registration Fees.

Evangelism Seeds

In some matters, an invitation to everyone is an invitation to no one. Invitations to church fall into that category. Like wedding rings, they must be given one at a time in order to be meaningful. Invite someone to worship this week!

Charles's Column

Sitting in church last Sunday, I was taken back in time to the 1997 groundbreaking for the first house in the John Henry Cain Subdivision of Habitat for Humanity homes in the 1600 block of West Grand Avenue. As I turned my spade of dirt, I could not imagine how the local affiliate of volunteers would be able to build the eight new houses by the November 2000 deadline set by the federal grant that provided the land. Those amazing volunteers met the required goal and just kept on building. One of those eight houses (1310 N. Dennis) was funded by local Disciples of Christ congregations including ours.

Sunday morning with the presentation of \$40,000 from our congregation to the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate, we have stepped up to a new level of commitment and support for this vital mission partner which is dedicated to the vision of "a decent house in a decent community for God's people in need."

I am so proud of the hard-working volunteers who dedicate so many hours to building Habitat homes, and I am deeply gratified by the generosity of our congregation in making available the funds needed to construct yet another house for a family that could not otherwise own a home. Way to go, Central!

Charles Watkins

Preserving our Past...Securing our Future Meditation

Let us think about our FAITHFULNESS this week as Eph 2:19-22 speaks to us. Consider "...citizens with the saints...members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets...Jesus the cornerstone." Isn't it exciting to realize we are joined with the prophets, apostles, Jesus and the saints. We are joined with that great crowd of witness from the past and also are the connecting link with those yet unborn. Our faith develops and grows best when we are gathered and challenged in this building that we call Central Christian Church. It is here that we receive strength and guidance for the faithful living of these days. Our faithfulness, now, insures that future generations will have the opportunity to know and serve God. God is moving this great line of faithful followers forward, let us all go with God. Amen.

Lois Whitaker, Chair Spiritual Emphasis Committee

Central's Bereavement Ministry

There's a quiet, unassuming and faithful ministry at Central that you may not know much about. When a Central member passes away, their family is offered the option of a bereavement meal. This meal, usually a luncheon, either follows or precedes the funeral or memorial service. This important ministry allows family members a place to gather and share memories, laughter and tears together, along with a delicious and warm meal – a welcome expression of caring and compassion during a very difficult time. This vital ministry is made possible because a group of caring individuals at Central give of their time and energy, often with little notice, to prepare food and serve the meal. The families, in turn, make a financial contribution back to the Bereavement fund which allows us to continue to offer this ministry to families in need. We are grateful to **Shirley Swarthout** who has agreed to coordinate this important ministry at Central. If you would like to share your gifts with this ministry either through helping with the meals or donating desserts for a Bereavement meal, please contact Shirley Swarthout.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Debbie Farrell** and family following the March 1st death of her father, *Harold Reynolds* of Witt, Illinois.....to **David & Frances Bottom** following the March 1st death of his mother, *Eunice Helen Marie Bottom* of White Hall.....to **Audrey Tate** and her family following the death last week of her husband Jim in Springfield. Besides many years of active membership in our congregation, Audrey was one of the early faculty members of the Central Preschool.....and to **Angelique Flanders Morgason**, daughter of **John & Becky Flanders** and family following the March 4th death of her infant daughter *Annastasia*.



Sunday, March 12, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
 Music: Offertory-Meagan Hinze, Flute
 8:15Anthem-Chancel Choir
 9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Cindy Soebbing
 9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
 9:30-Sunday School
 11:15-Children’s Worship, 250
 2:00-Family Theater Outing, Aladdin at the Civic Center
 4:30-Bill Moutray Concert, Sanctuary
 6:00-Capital Campaign Kick Off, Disciple Room

Monday (13)

8:00-Wellness Walk
 6:00-CCC Friends, Pastor Robert’s
 8:15-Basketball, Webster Cantrell Hall

Tuesday (14)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
 9:30-11:00-Preschool Registration
 10:00-Pastors’ Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor’s Study
 1:15-ChristCare, 218
 5:30-7:30-Baby Talk, Disciple Room
 6:30-Bible Study, home of Coleen & Mike Myers

Wednesday (15)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
 9:30-11:00-Preschool Registration
 12:00-Central Singers
 5:30-Church Council, Friendship Ctr.
 5:30-CCC Friends, Disciple Room, The Point, 240-280, Parlor
 6:00-Directory Team, Volunteer Room
 6:30-Fellowship Dept., Friendship Ctr.

Thursday (16)

10:00-Alanon, 212
 6:00-Bell Choir, 280
 7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (17)

8:00-Wellness Walk

Bolivian Women Create Bags for the Mix in '06 Women’s Event

In partnership with the Methodist Women’s Federation of Bolivia, the Mix in '06 Women’s Event June 21-25, 2006 in Indianapolis will provide 5000 attendees with brightly-colored tote bags. The Women’s Sewing Project in Cochabamba, Bolivia consists of almost 30 women, mostly single parents, who work during the day as domestic workers or street vendors, and sew in the evening at the community center of the church. The sewing work supports comprehensive care for children ages six months to 12 years, including food, medical and dental care, and psychological support for children and mothers. For more information pick up a brochure on the Women’s Ministry Table in the Friendship Center or go to www.dreamonsisters.com. Don’t forget to mix up your spare change in the Friendship Center jar. Your contributions will help provide Central women with scholarships to attend the Mix!



Sunday morning the President of Central Christian Church **Chris Fagin** presented the congregation’s check for \$40,000 to **H. Dean Simcox**, president of the Decatur Area Habitat for Humanity affiliate. This presentation fulfilled the commitment of the current capital campaign to set aside ten per cent of the gifts received to provide the materials for construction of a home through

Habitat. When construction begins on the house funded by your gifts through the capital campaign, it will be the 49th house built in Decatur by Habitat volunteers.

Community Organization Seeks Volunteers

Faith in Action of Macon County, formally known as Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, is looking for volunteers. Through FIA, volunteers of many faiths come together to help people with long-term health needs maintain their independence for as long as possible. Volunteers provide non-medical assistance with daily activities like grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments, companionship and minor yard/home maintenance needs. A few hours a week can make a world of difference to someone in our community. If you are interested in helping with this important community ministry, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**. More information is available in the Welcome Center.

Counting On You

March 5

Worship Attendance258
 Sunday School Attendance 66

Serving Schedule—March 12, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Pepper, Bob Smith

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Chris Fagin
Dean Gray
Janet Gray
Joe Lewis
Gail Prince
Larry Prince
Dean Simcox
Sue Simcox
Rebecca Smart
Neil Baird

Elders

Jan Baird
Carol Graham
Mary Jane Linton
Julie Martin
Brett Swallow
Larry Otis
Cindy Soebbing
Bruce Williams
Shirley Swarhout
Larry Thicksten
Alternate: Pat Ash

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 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Carl Boline, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston

10:45 - Team 7 - Karen McFadin, Chad McFadin, Jon French, Jane French, Clyde Booher

Greeters:

8:15 - Mike & Gerri Munos, Larry & Darla Otis

10:45 - Ron & Jan Dobbs, Andy & Theresa Fulk

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Ed & Joy Adams

Children's Worship:

Christine Lyman-Harm

Parish Nurse:

Cindy Soebbing

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos, Julia Funk 10:45 - David Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Becky & John Flanders, Pamela Bednar, Joan Stewart, Mary Waldmier

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

March 15 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Mar. 13 9:00-12:30 - Dorothy Keck
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Mar. 14 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Mar. 15 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Mar. 16 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Mar. 17 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
12:30-4:00 - Juanita Reynolds

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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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