



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, March 15, 2006

No. 9



Lenten Symbols Adorn Parking Lot

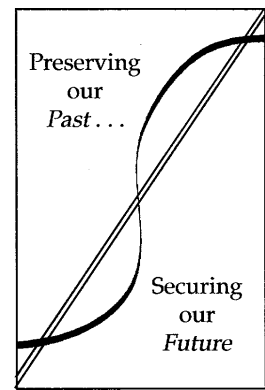
Along with resurfacing the parking lot and new exterior lighting, enhanced signage was one of the projects financed through the 2003-2006 capital campaign which ends this month. Decorative, seasonal banners, such as the new Lenten Banners, constructed of a high quality weather resistant fabric, are a part of our exterior signage program. Five of the royal violet banners display palm fronds, retelling the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week when the

Passover pilgrims shouted "hosanna" hailing Jesus as the promised Messiah. Five more banners display a Celtic cross similar to the sanctuary cross which hangs over our baptistery in the chancel, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, which granted the gift of new life to all and to which our voices raise a chorus of alleluias. The banners remind us of our Lenten and Easter journey and proclaim part of the gospel story to our visitors and neighbors.



SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2006
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
No Child Left Behind

Text: Exodus 20:1-17
Robert Bushey



This week you should have received a mailing from the church that includes details about the projects included in the *Preserving our Past...Securing our Future* building fund campaign. Please review the information including the Table of Giving which shows the kinds of gifts that are needed to give our church success in this vital effort.

Soon one of the terrific volunteers in this campaign will phone you to encourage you to attend the single service of worship at Central on March 26 at 10 a.m. when each of us will have the opportunity to complete a three year Giving Card for the Building Fund April 1, 2006—March 31, 2009.

Moutray Concert DVD

If you would like to purchase a DVD of Bill Moutray's concert at Central on March 12, please phone the church office so that we can add your name to the list. A \$15 contribution will help offset the church's cost.

Habitat Fund Raiser Dinner

Habitat will have its 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 1/2 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 through the week in the church office.

Evangelism Seeds

Invite someone to church this week. It is both the easiest and most effective way to influence people toward a friendship with God.



Central Youth 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.

Wednesday, March 22nd

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.

Summer Church Camp Preview Schedule

Genesis (grades 2-3)

June 5-7

Shalom (grades 9-12)

June 12-17

Koinonia (grades 3-8)

June 26-July 1

ADDaM (grades 8-12)

July 23-30

Bridge Builders (gr. 8-12)

August 9-13

**Start Making Your Plans Now!
Early Registration=Cheaper
Fees!**

Most week long camps cost between \$215-\$250.

Scholarships are available up to 1/2 cost for participating members but may NOT be used to cover Late Registration Fees.

Robert's Reflections

For the past month, children, youth and adults have been gathering each week to participate in our new ministry of friendship making. We have shared meals together and grown together in our friendships with one another and with God. While I am greatly pleased with all of the fifty people who have been participating, I am especially excited about the group of young adults in their 20's and 30's that have been meeting at our home. I am excited because they represent hope for the future of our mission and ministry as a congregation and because they have so much to offer already! Within this group are four Sunday School Teachers, three Children's Worship Leaders, regular Ushers and Greeters, two Valet parking attendants, several members of the Pictorial Directory Team, and several members of the Capital Campaign calling teams and more. I am so encouraged by the depth of their commitment to Central. I am moved by their compassion for one another and for our whole church family. I am inspired by their desire to grow their faith and their relationship with God. I am excited by their willingness to celebrate diversity and their willingness to invite others to share in their faith journey. And, I am glad to call them friends!

As we continue our Lenten journey and as we pray about our participation in our efforts to preserve our past and secure our future, I invite you to consider the greatest friendship you may ever have. Jesus said, "I no longer call you servants, but friends." What a blessing it is to know a Savior who wants to know you as a friend! How assuring it is to know that Jesus wants to listen to you, will accept you, will forgive you, and wants to celebrate the gift of abundant life with you! During these days of repentance and renewal, soul searching and selfless giving may it be that your friendship with Jesus grows to new heights and your commitment to the mission and ministry of Christ's church grows stronger as well!

Peace & Joy,
Robert

Springfield Disciples Congregation Suffers Tornado Damage

The powerful tornado that struck the west side of Springfield on Sunday evening damaged Parkway Christian Church. While the damage assessment is not complete as of this printing, reports are that the steeple was destroyed, roofing materials were blown off, and walls were cracked. First Christian in Springfield has offered the congregation meeting space until the building is declared safe and/or while repairs are being made.

A Cause Bigger Than Yourself


Our capital campaign calls us to understand the importance of *Preserving Our Past* and *Securing Our Future*. In Exodus 35:20-29 we read about how "... everyone whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, brought the Lord's offering to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the sacred vestments." What excitement to be part of the sacrifice needed to build something greater than any individual's tent. I hope you feel that same excitement knowing that through your gifts and sacrifices, you are preserving the meeting house inherited from our past and securing the meeting house of God for our future.

Randy Brooks, Elder
Spiritual Emphasis Team

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Carol McClure** following the death of her father-in-law, *Ed McClure* on March 12th.





Sunday, March 26
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
and one worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Notes of Thanks Received

Many thanks to our church family for all the cards, prayers, and visits of our wonderful ministers. It meant so much to us during our surprisingly long stays in the hospitals. We've missed you and can't wait to get back to church.

God bless you,
Warren & Alice Brooks

To all our good friends at Central Christian,

Several years ago, when Barbara and I were looking for a new church, we walked into Central and immediately found a new home. We often talked about the close family attitude, love, and support that comes from Central members.

I know that Barbara is no longer in pain and is probably teasing up a storm in Heaven.

I truly want to thank all of the people who were so good to us in many ways, especially those whose support I truly needed in these past weeks.

Lovingly,
Charlotte Lyon

Peace & Justice Film Series

How far should the United States be willing to go to protect itself against terrorists? Six experts discuss the use of torture in "The Torture Question," a PBS Frontline video. The Peace & Justice Task Force invites you to view and discuss this issue on Monday, April 3 at 6:30 in Pilling Chapel at Millikin University. This program is co-sponsored by Millikin's student chapter of Amnesty International.

Register Now for the Mix in '06 Women's Event

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 United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ are alive and well. For more information about how to register, pick up a brochure on the Women's Ministry Table in the Friendship Center or go to www.dreamonsisters.com. And 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, March 19, 2006

- 8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
- Music: Offertory-Youth Choir
- 10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
- 9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw
- 9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
- 9:30-Sunday School
- 11:15-Children's Worship, 250
- 6:00-Youth

Monday (20)

- 8:00-Wellness Walk
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 8:15-Basketball, Webster Cantrell Hall

Tuesday (21)

- General Primary Elections, Lower Commons Area
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
- 1:15-ChristCare, 218
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 6:30-Bible Study, 280

Wednesday (22)

- 9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
- 11:30-1:00-Baby Talk, Disciple Room
- 12:00-Central Singers
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 5:30-Stephen Ministry, Volunteer Room
- 5:30-7:30-CCC Friends
- 6:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

Thursday (23)

- 10:00-Alanon, 212
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 6:00-Bell Choir, 280
- 6:00-Mix in '06 Planning, Volunteer Rm.
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (24)

- 8:00-Wellness Walk

Saturday (25)

- 9:00-11:00-Pastors' Class Retreat, 290

Counting On You

March 12

Worship Attendance 289

Sunday School Attendance 78

Serving Schedule—March 19, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Wayne Honeycutt, Pat Ash

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 - Dottie Scholes, Debbie Seaberg, Kevin & Mickie Wilmot

10:45 - Ed & Jean Voice, Keith & Jeannie Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Don & Brenda Tankersley

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Children's Worship: Katie Powers

Acolytes:

10:45 - Sean Beal

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jordan Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

March 22 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Mar. 20 9:00-12:30 - Alice Brooks
12:30-4:00 - Florence Bolin

Mar. 21 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams
12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor

Mar. 22 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Mar. 23 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor

Mar. 24 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
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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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