



# The Central Visitor

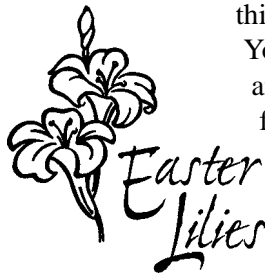
A weekly visitor to your home bringing you news from Central Christian Church

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, April 5, 2006

No. 12

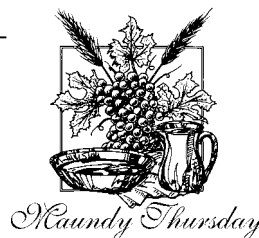
## Order Lilies This Sunday



The Worship Department will take orders for Easter Lilies this Sunday morning following each service of worship. You may purchase a lily for \$13 to adorn the sanctuary and honor the memory of someone you love or to honor a friend who is still living. Your lily will be used in decoration of the church on Easter morning, April 16, and you may take your lily home with you after the second service that day.

## Maundy Thursday Worship

On Thursday of Holy Week, April 13 at 7:00 p.m., you are invited to worship God in a service of communion and remembrance. You will be led through The Last Supper with an opportunity to receive communion and then recall the events that led to the death of Jesus. The Chancel Choir will provide musical pictures and several readers will recount the Biblical record of the Holy Week events. Plan to be here and bring your friends to this meaningful worship experience.



## Sisters in Spirit to Learn about "This Old House"

Women of Central and friends are invited to a special Sisters in Spirit Gathering on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon at the Circa 1860 Tea Room. We will enjoy a delicious lunch together and then hear from one of the renovators of the Tea Room about the process they went through to bring the house back in all its glory! Sign ups begin this Sunday in the Friendship Center. Sisters in Spirit is a monthly gathering of Central women and is open to all who are interested. It is not a group in the traditional sense but rather an opportunity to gather around specific interests and programs. This will be the last Sisters in Spirit gathering before the busy summer months.

## Fellowship Department is Seeking Models for Fashion Show

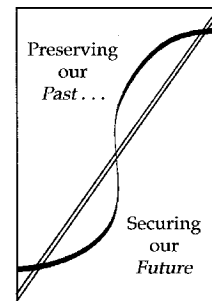
Have you ever dreamed of becoming a supermodel? Can you see yourself strutting down the runway in the spotlight with paparazzi scurrying for an exclusive? Okay, maybe we're exaggerating a little but the Fellowship Department is looking for a few Central members and friends who would like to model in a fashion show at our annual Sarah's Daughters Banquet on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Clothing will be provided by Kohl's Department Store. We are looking for women and girls of all ages, including some little ones and would love to have mothers and daughters together. If you think you might be interested, call **Gerri Munos** this week.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2006**  
**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**  
**Who is the King of Glory?**

Text: Mark 11:1-11  
Charles Watkins

## Piano Recital

On Thursday April 20 at 7:30 p.m. Linda Camp will present a piano recital in the sanctuary of Central Christian Church. Mark your calendars and watch for more information.



Progress continues on our 2006-2009 capital campaign and we are now 89% of the way toward our \$500,000 goal. Follow-up contacts are continuing this week on those whose giving cards are needed but not yet received.

Central needs to broaden the base of support for the building fund. In the previous campaign 2003-2006, 178 families turned in commitments. In the current campaign, the church has received 172 giving cards. If 53 additional families would pledge just \$7 per week for 156 weeks, our goal would be fully underwritten with commitments! If you have mislaid your giving card, please phone the church office so that a new one can be mailed to you this week.

## Youth Column

**Central Youth  
Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 6-12**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

We will make a fast food run and have a regular meeting afterwards.

**Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
NO CCC FRIENDS**

CCC Friends will not meet on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will meet again on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth are encouraged to attend the Maundy Thursday Service on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Musicamp 2006

Central is once again collaborating with First Baptist Church to plan Musicamp 2006 for children grades K-6. The camp meets mornings (9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) June 12-16 and is free and open to all children. The theme is American Made Music. The week includes activities to stimulate creativity including visits from guest artists, singing, instruments, musical games and more. For more information contact Don Martin.

## Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for the Kirby, Schilling and Traylor Scholarships are available at the church office and are due back by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need, however, participation in church, school and community activities are considered as well.

## Charles's Column

This Sunday's worship services are among the most difficult to plan. First, of course, it is Palm Sunday, a day of triumphal entry, of waving palms, of hailing the Prince of Peace as he humbly rides a colt into the capital city. It is a day of joyous celebration and glad hymns and happy children. The joy of Easter coming in another week spills over into Palm Sunday.

But this Sunday is also Passion Sunday, the final Sunday of the Church's sober observance of Lent. It is the last Sunday of Jesus's natural life. Jesus is riding into the capital city on his way to certain death at the hands of anxious religious authorities and Roman executioners. The business with the donkey colt and the waving palm branches is actually a political demonstration that defies the principalities and powers and fairly invites the arrest of Jesus whose popularity and authoritative teaching threaten the religious and political establishment of his day.

And while the church calendar provides somber worship opportunities on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the vast majority of Protestant Christians stay as far away from these grim observances that focus on Jesus's betrayal and death as they can. That means that most Christians move from a joyous celebration of palm waving to a glorious celebration of resurrection in one week and never tarry for even a brief hour in the garden of tortured prayer and betrayal, never stand in horror at the foot of the cross, and never let the desperate loneliness of Jesus's death cloud the happy spring days leading up to Easter. But Easter without the Good Friday experience can't really be Easter.

So how do we celebrate Palm Sunday and appropriately observe Passion Sunday all in the same hour this single Sunday morning? It is a struggle. But I think you will notice a progression through the service which begins with happy singing and a palm branch for every worshipper. And then as we move through the service toward communion, a more somber attitude will pervade the service. And at the end, Leslie Peart who usually offers up a glorious barn-burner for our postludes has planned for this Sunday a more contemplative, quiet, and subdued piece as we leave the sanctuary for the remainder of Holy Week.

I am hoping you will want to be a part of Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday at Easter and that you will devote some of your devotional and prayer time both this week and next to the gracious sacrifice that Jesus made for our salvation.

*Charles Watkins*

## Justice and Spirituality

Mark your calendars for a great opportunity to explore the Bible and contemporary issues of justice in our society on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Rev. Larry Sweeney, Minister of Justice Education for the Disciples Justice Action Network, will present a workshop on Justice and Spirituality. *"Larry Sweeney is offering congregations an opportunity to think and act beyond the box. I have attended one of his workshops and find his message and style thoughtful, level-headed and helpful"* Charles Bayer, scholar and Chalice Press author. Registration fee is \$5 for adults (free for youth) and includes breakfast goodies before the workshop. A pizza lunch will follow for those who are interested. The Workshop is sponsored by the Peace & Justice Task Force. Watch the Visitor and Sunday bulletin for registration information.



## News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Marilyn Mertz** for receiving the Woman of Excellence Award for promoting the arts.

## Check Your Giving Acknowledgement

Within the last week all regular contributors to Central should have received the church's grateful acknowledgement listing all your gifts to Central given through March of this year.

Please check your statement for accuracy to be sure all your gifts are included and show correctly the purpose for which you gave them. Corrections become more difficult as time passes.

Also please check on the very last line which is marked "Pledge Balance." If there is a figure on that line under the column "Bldg 2003-2006," that is the amount that is needed to complete your commitment to the *Proud of our Past...Focused on our Future* capital funds campaign 2003-2006 which ended March 31. Giving that amount will reduce the debt incurred in the current Great Hall/Choir Room project and will fulfill your plan to support that campaign. Thank you for your gifts to your church.

## Elderberries to Meet Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup>!

We invite you to come and enjoy lunch with Central's fellowship group for those at least 55 years young! We will meet at noon on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Chicken Casserole, Glazed Baby Carrots, Fresh Fruit Salad, Rolls and Butter and "Pig Pickin" Cake! The food is lovingly prepared with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, our own **Dick Cain** will grace us with his recitation of favorite and well-known poetry. To sign up, please call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. Reservations cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

## Silent Auction for Dove, Inc.

The Fifth Annual Silent Auction in support of Dove, Inc. is set to begin on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and will end at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Great entertainment packages and more will be available for bidding. More information on our auction will be available soon. All services and items have been donated for your bidding. Plan now to support Dove.

## Cake Bakers Needed for Good Samaritan Inn

The second Monday of every month, a crew of faithful workers from Central Christian Church helps prepare & serve the noon meal at Good Samaritan Inn. As part of this outreach, CCC bakers provide cakes for dessert on the day that our crew works. Over the years, these bakers have willingly & generously responded to the call for a cake 2 or 3 times a year. Now we need additional bakers. If you are willing to have your name added to this list of cake bakers, please tell **Judy Ford**. Thank you to all who help with this project whether you work on the meal, bake a cake, or donate food or dollars. It is well received & much appreciated.

## Counting On You

April 2

Worship Attendance ..... 318  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 75

## In the Hospital...

St. Mary's Hospital:  
Guy Ferre



## Sunday, April 9, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Chancel Bells  
10:45 Anthem-Youth, Chancel Choir,  
Piano & Organ  
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-Central Youth

## Monday (10)

8:00-Wellness Walk  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-CCC Friends, Bushey house  
6:30-MCCOCP, Disciple Room

## Tuesday (11)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn  
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:30-Baby Talk Program, Disciple Room  
7:00 - Chancel Choir

## Wednesday (12)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall  
12:00-Central Singers  
1:30-3:00-Low Vision Support, 280  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:30-Shepherding Dept., Volunteer Rm.

## Thursday (13)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
7:00-*Maundy Thursday Service*

## Friday (14)

8:00-Wellness Walk

## Evangelism Seeds

Jesus wants to live within us to give us life abundant. He wants to live through us to give abundant life to others. Invite someone to worship this week.

## Serving Schedule—April 9, 2006

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Jan Baird, Connie Bordner

### Communion to Shut-Ins:

#### Deacons

Cathy Ash

Jim Ash

Debbie Bateman

Philip Bateman

Azalee Berner

Warren Berner

Dale Ford

Kelly Swallow

Judy Ford

Alex Harm

#### Elders

Randy Brooks

Larry Chapman

Jan Dobbs

Chris Fagin

Kevin Otis

Linda Kuhns

Larry Pepper

Brett Swallow

Tom Spry

Kevin Wilmot

Alternate: Lois Whitaker

### 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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Ropp

10:45 - Team 6 - Maxine Koenig, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

### Greeters:

8:15 - Tom & Doris Israel, Don & Rae Owens

10:45 - Brett, Kelly, Ashley, Collin Swallow

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Louise Boline, Rosie Doore, Sara Field

**Children's Worship:** Katie Powers

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Sarah Funk

10:45 - Avery Martin

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jordan Backes

### Preparation of Communion:

Evelyn Sperry, Greg & Jo Carter, Gregg & Linda Foltz

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

### April 12 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

### Hosts:

Apr. 10 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Apr. 11 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Apr. 12 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Apr. 13 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling

12:30-4:00 - Judy Ford

Apr. 14 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
**Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700**  
**HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG**  
**e-mail: *central@cccdisciples.org***

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

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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