The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX | Decatur, Illinois, April 12, 2006 | No. 13

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2006
Easter Sunday
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
What If...?
Text: Mark 16:1-8
Charles Watkins

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 22nd 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 it's 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.

Props Needed for Sarah's Daughters Banquet

Are you a seamstress? If so, the Fellowship Department would like to borrow some of your equipment for props for the Sarah's Daughter's Banquet. Needed are dress forms, sewing baskets, tape measures, pin cushions, spools of thread and other sewing notions. If you have items we can borrow, please speak with **Jeannie Backes** or **Pastor Gretchen**. Tickets for the May 12th dinner and fashion show, "Spring Fashions – Central Style" will be on sale April 23rd.

Piano Recital by Linda Camp, April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Linda Camp is an accomplished pianist whose instructors included Aldo Mancinelli and Richard Cass. She has performed in the master classes at Ravinia Festival and has appeared as soloist with the Tulsa Philharmonic, the Oklahoma Symphony and the Southwest Symphony (Chicago). In addition to her extensive performance experience, she has received many awards.

Linda is active as a teacher, performer, adjudicator and church musician. She is on the faculty of Elmhurst College.

The program will include pieces by Mozart, Chopin and Debussy. Please take this opportunity to come and hear more great music played in our wonderful sanctuary and invite your music loving friends and neighbors.

Register Now for the Mix in '06

Now is the time to register for the Mix in '06! Late registration penalties will apply after May 1st and hotel rooms are filling up quickly. Substantial scholarships are available for Central Women who would like to attend this event in Indianapolis, June 21st through 25th. The five-day event woven with worship, fellowship, study, mission, music, learning, laughter, and spiritual growth, will inspire you to dream, empower your dreams and allow you to live out your dreams in the world. Registration forms are available on the Women's Ministry Table in the Friendship Center and more information is available through **Pastor Gretchen** or online at www.dreamonsisters.com.

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt for children and youth will be held during Sunday School this Sunday on the South Lawn. Children should meet with their class at 9:30 a.m. and they will be dismissed to the egg hunt at 9:45 a.m. Breakfast goodies will be available in the Great Hall following the hunt. Parents are welcome to attend and help hunt for eggs.

Blessing of Children Scheduled

A service of Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents has been scheduled for Mother's Day Sunday, May 14th during both services. If you would like to be included in this service, please contact the church office at 428-4336 by May 1st.

Silent Auction for Dove, Inc.

The Fifth Annual Silent Auction in support of Dove, Inc. is set to begin on Sunday, April 30th and will end at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, May 7th. Great entertainment packages, Cardinal's Tickets for Father's Day Weekend, a beautiful hand quilted nativity wall hanging and more will be available for bidding. All services and items have been donated for your bidding. Plan now to support Dove.

Youth Column

Wednesday, April 19th
CCC FRIENDS

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

Sunday, April 30th
Central Youth
Grades 6-12
6 p.m.-8 p.m.

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 1st. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need, however, participation in church, school and community activities are considered as well.

Evangelism Seeds

What is the meaning of life? To love and receive love. It must be so. Without love, life has no meaning. Invite someone to Central this week and help put them in touch with the greatest love of all, the love shown in God's gift of Jesus Christ.

Charles's Column

In western Christianity this is the holiest week in the year. Beginning with Palm Sunday, the week follows Jesus through the last week of his earthly life—the dramatic entry into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the temple, the Last Supper with his disciples, the betrayal, the arrest in the garden, the trial before the Council and then before Pilate, the torture by soldiers, the procession to Golgotha, the crucifixion, the death, the burial. It is a week full of holy memory, full of invitation to repentance and contemplation, full of heart-wrenching wonder at the love of God, the courage of Jesus, the cruelty of occupying power, the majesty of death, the evaporation of hope, the grief of loss.

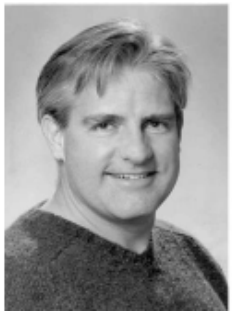
And yet, for all this week's spiritual and emotional freight, it is not holy for you unless you make it holy. The secular culture no longer honors this week: we all go to work every day, and except for the on-again-off-again wonder of spring weather, it's not really different from any other week of our lives—unless we make the decision in our own lives that we will remember Jesus, honor God, and consider seriously the meaning of events that took place during this week so many centuries ago.

Let me offer some modest suggestions for the week (even though it is more than half gone as you read this.) First, sit down and read the passion story: Matthew 26 and 27, Mark 14 and 15, Luke 22 and 23, or John 18 and 19. Pick any of the four, though this year the lectionary focuses on Mark's gospel. Then sit for a while in silence and consider what this story means for your own life and faith. If you had been there, where would you have fit into the story? Would you have been a fearful disciple, confused and frightened and running away and hiding? Would you have been part of the establishment, defending the present order against the threat of radical religious faith? Would you have been one of the women at the foot of the cross, visiting the tomb on Easter morning? Would you have been a person of power and influence who did not do anything for Jesus until he was gone? All these old Bible stories are stories about us, but it is up to us to see the truth about where we fit into them.

Then, come to the church tonight (assuming you read this on Thursday afternoon or evening after work). This is Maundy Thursday, the day in Holy Week when Jesus had Passover supper with his disciples. This is the night that Jesus took the meal celebrating deliverance from slavery in Egypt and changed its purpose and meaning into a meal celebrating his sacrifice of body and blood for our sakes and our salvation.

Spend some extra time in prayer on Saturday, the day of desolated loneliness following the death of Jesus, and then arise on Sunday morning to attend Easter worship. Make this week holy in your life.

Charles Watkins



The Bible and Contemporary Issues

Register this week 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. 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.

News From the Pews....

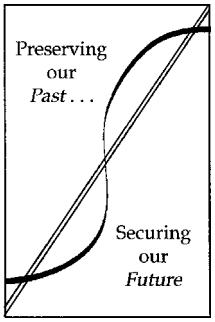
The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Lawrence & Sally Thicksten** following the April 9th death of Larry's brother, *Ronald Thicksten* .....and to **Dottie Scholes** & family following the death of her mother, *Earlene Esry* on April 11th.

Regional Women's Gathering

You are invited to attend a Regional women's retreat day on Saturday, April 29th at the Holiday Inn in Champaign from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The day will include worship, networking and presentations around the theme, *Common Roots – Sharing Wisdom as Women of Faith*. The $22 registration fee includes lunch and program materials. Registration forms are available on the Women's Ministry Table in the Friendship Center.

Join 10,000 Disciples Praying!

We see a growing sense of common mission in service of God through the whole church. We're seeing even more clearly that God's transformation will come through our own deepening Christian spirituality and mobilizing Disciples worldwide to even more exciting Mission. Imagine 10,000 Disciples Praying daily for our church, our mission, our faith and for our church's leadership. Our General Minister and President, Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, invites us to be part of 10,000 Disciples Praying daily for the church and its leaders by committing to take time to pray daily for the Disciples future and Mission. You may sign up on-line by following the link included on Centrals website at www.cccdisciples.org. Once you are registered you will receive e-mails and newsletters to let you know of the progress and the miraculous things that are happening as Disciples join together in prayer. We will demonstrate to the world the power of prayer as it leads us in exciting new ways for the transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Of course, you can pray for your church without registering online, but doing so allows the entire church to know just how many Disciples are joined in prayer. So don't delay! Join 9, 999 other Disciples today by signing up online. If you do not have access to the internet, but would like to officially become a part of this ministry, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.



Central is marching on toward victory in the current capital campaign. Cards have now been received from 193 families and individuals who expect to give $477,482 to the building fund over the next three years (April 1, 2006—March 31, 2009.

The church has already received more cards than it did in the previous three-year campaign, and more dollars pledged than in our previous four campaigns. We are now 95.5% of the way to achieving our $500,000 goal. If you will join your fellow church members and commit yourself to $7 a week, $10 a week, or more, you can move our congregation to victory in this effort.

Many, many thanks to those who have already stepped forward and pledged sacrificial support to maintain and improve our church facilities for ministry and mission.

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 16, 2006
Easter Sunday

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Karen Driver, soprano; Marilyn Ward, piano
Anthem-Chancel Choir, Brass & Organ
9:45-Easter Egg Hunt, west lawn
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250

Monday (17)
8:00-Wellness Walk
4:00-Dove Auction Planning Meeting, Volunteer Room
6:00-CCC Friends, Bushey house
8:15-Basketball, Webster Cantrell Hall

Tuesday (18)
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
6:00-Fellowship Dept., Volunteer Room

Wednesday (19)
9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
5:00-CADV Meeting, 280
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room
5:30-CCC Friends

Thursday (20)
10:00-Alanon, 212
7:00-Prairieland Investors, 212
7:00-Chancel Choir
7:30-Linda Camp Piano Concert, Sanctuary

Friday (21)
8:00-Wellness Walk

Saturday (22)
9:00-12:00-DJAN Workshop with Larry Sweeney, Disciple Room
12:00-Sisters in Spirit, Circa 1860 Tea Room

Counting On You

April 9

Worship Attendance 346
Sunday School Attendance 75

Serving Schedule—April 16, 2006

Elders:
8:15 & 10:45 - Pat Ash, Brett Swallow

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, Bob Hoaglin, 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 Philips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

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 - Bob & Chloe Hoaglin, Bruce & Liz Campbell
10:45 - Janet & Larry Thicksten, David & Katie Miller

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Disciples Sunday School Class

Acolytes:
8:15 - Brad Munos, Julia Funk
10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:
8:15 - Greg Carter
10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:
Evelyn Sperry, Greg & Jo Carter, Gregg & Linda Foltz

Van Drivers:
8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing
10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

There will be no Parish Nurse Clinic this Easter Sunday, April 16

April 19 Visitor Mailing Crew:
Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Apr. 17	9:00-12:30 -	Alice Brooks
	12:30-4:00 -	*Help Needed*
Apr. 18	9:00-12:30 -	*Help Needed*
	12:30-4:00 -	Lilabelle Traylor
Apr. 19	9:00-12:30 -	Marylu Lyman
	12:30-4:00 -	Sally Thicksten
Apr. 20	9:00-12:30 -	Jean Booher
	12:30-4:00 -	Donna Strong
Apr. 21	9:00-12:30 -	Juanita Ballance
	12:30-4:00 -	Juanita Reynolds

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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.

Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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