



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, April 19, 2006

No. 14

## Welcome New Members!



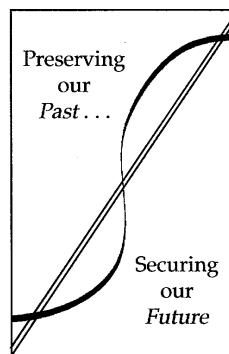
Central welcomes four new members who joined on Easter Sunday and are pictured above:

## Spring Fashions - Central Style

Our 8th annual Sarah's Daughter's Banquet will be Friday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the newly renovated Great Hall. The evening promises to be packed with great food and fellowship and a fashion show with styles from Kohl's and some of Central's own models. Tickets will be available in the Friendship Center beginning this Sunday, \$6 for adults and \$3 for children (ages 2-10). All women and girls are invited to attend. The menu, prepared by the Fellowship Department and served by Central men, includes Pork Tenderloin Diane, rice pilaf, steamed green beans, springberry medley, rolls and butter, and sherbet and a cookie.

## Congratulations, Central!

You have achieved a great victory for your church in Central's building fund campaign for 2006-2009! Five additional giving cards received this week have brought the total amount committed to \$500,160 by two hundred two families and individuals. This total is \$50,000 more than has been pledged to any of the four previous three-year capital campaigns, and this is the first time in at least fifteen years that Central has achieved its goal for building fund commitments. Many thanks to **Mike Holbrook**, Campaign Chair, all ninety dedicated campaign leaders, workers, and volunteers, and to all the generous members and friends who have made this victory possible. Thank you!



**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**I Doubt It!**

Text: John 20:19-31  
Charles Watkins

## Blessing of Children

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

## Diaconate Sponsors Senior Members Luncheon

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Deacons are honoring Central's senior members, who have attained the age of 70 or better, with a reception at 11:00 a.m. in the Disciple Room and a luncheon at noon in the Great Hall. Spouses are also invited.

The menu is baked steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, carrots, fruit salad, cake, iced tea & coffee.

If you did not receive an invitation and are eligible, or if you did receive one, but have not responded, please call the church office, 428-4336, today!

## Silent Auction Catalogue Now Available

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

## Youth Column

**Wednesday, April 26th**  
**CCC FRIENDS**

CCC FRIENDS meets on  
Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Central Youth Grades 6-12**  
**5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Central Youth will meet at the church at 5 p.m. and travel to the Scovill Driving Range. Lessons on choosing and swinging clubs will be available for the novice and buckets of golf balls will be available for driving fun for the skilled golfer. We will go for ice cream at Kaleidoscoops afterwards. Come and try something new or practice for the summer season and bring your friends!

### Musicamp 2006

Central is once again collaborating with First Baptist Church to plan Musicamp 2006 for children grades K-6. The camp meets mornings (9am-11:30am) 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**.

### Monday Night Volleyball

For the next two Mondays, the gym at Webster Cantrell Hall will be open for Volleyball beginning at 8 p.m. Youth and Adults are welcome to come out and play. The games are hosted by **Kevin Otis**. Our Monday night basketball fellowship has recessed for the warmer months.



## Charles's Column

The year I was born two young Egyptian brothers were digging for some natural fertilizer in the mountains of Northern Egypt close to their village. They accidentally unearthed a red earthenware jar about three feet tall. Hoping that they had discovered buried treasure, they broke the jar open and found a dozen books bound in brown leather cases. Disappointed, they took them home to Al Quasr and threw them into a pile of straw used as fuel for their mother's oven. Parts of the books were used to keep the fire going.

Ironically, it had been the goal of early fathers of the Christian church in the third century to burn these books and all others like them. Through a complicated series of sales on the black market these pages eventually caught the attention of the Egyptian government and were placed in the Coptic Museum in Cairo.

A quarter century later when I was a theological student, I took a course taught by one of the team of scholars which was working on a translation of these ancient books. By that time, they were known as the Nag Hammadi Library. He explained to us with great excitement the significance of these texts which had been condemned and rejected as heretical in the early church. We had records of the church's polemics against the second century Gnostics who had written these books, but we had just one side of the conversation. We didn't have the actual writings which were being criticized and condemned. But now we did.

The Gnostics taught that this world was created and is ruled by an evil god, which they identified as the god of the Old Testament. But the Gnostics had secret knowledge of a higher God who was revealed in Jesus Christ. The Gnostics believed that the material world and human flesh are evil, but their secret hidden knowledge of the true God promised salvation and escape from this miserable world. Their view of Jesus was other-worldly, and some Gnostics taught that Jesus was not really human at all, but was a completely spiritual being that just appeared to be flesh and blood. There are Gnostic influences in various New Testament texts, including the Gospel of John and some letters attributed to Paul.

Orthodox Christianity insists instead that there is but one God, revealed in Hebrew and Christian scriptures, and that Jesus was the unique revelation of God in human flesh, an idea that the Gnostics found offensive and unacceptable. The central ritual of our faith emphasizes the actual flesh and the actual blood of Jesus.

The Nag Hammadi Library includes just a few of the books which the Christian church rejected and refused to include in the canon, the official list of New Testament books. Last week, the National Geographic Society announced publication of the *Gospel of Judas*, one book of the Nag Hammadi Library which portrays Judas as Jesus's best friend, charged by Christ with the task of turning him over to the Romans for execution, so that Jesus could be liberated from loathsome human flesh.

I am fascinated that after all these years, the popular media are exclaiming about the possibility of new knowledge of Jesus from these books rejected so many centuries ago by the church. Suddenly the Gnostic search for salvation through secret knowledge is alive all over again! But I am not expecting that we will need to paste any additional books into our New Testaments. I am delighted to celebrate with you in the coming weeks the resurrection of our fellow human being, the Lord Jesus.

*Charles Watkins*

## Last Chance to Register 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 21-25. The five-day event woven with worship, fellowship, study, mission, music, learning, and spiritual growth, will inspire you to 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](http://www.dreamonsisters.com).

## Notes of Thanks Received

Central Christian Family,

I want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers. It means so much to have a church family for support. I have enjoyed my Christian growth and experience at Central. Thank you all again for everything!

God Bless, **York Powers**

A special thank you to our choir, the ministers and participating lay people for the meaningful Maundy Thursday program. -Anonymous

## Fit Lunch Club – Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Did you resolve to eat healthier, exercise more, lose some weight in 2006? How are you doing? Join **Pastor Robert** for the next gathering of the Fit Lunch on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Fit Lunch Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We begin gathering in the Disciple Room at 11:45 a.m. (or later if you need to) and conclude by 1 p.m. (or earlier if you need to). Bring your own lunch (I will have a veggie tray, some fruit available, and you may purchase soda or bottled water for 50 cents). Bring your resolve to be healthy and we will share tips for weight loss (no weighing in!) and pray together.

## Will God Save Everybody?

You are invited to explore the question of "Who God will Save?" on Saturday, May 6 from 1:30-4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie Ave. Authors Philip Gulley and James Mulholland, who have written books, *If Grace is True* and *If God is Love*, will explain why they believe God will save every person at the free workshop. A luncheon before the workshop with the authors is available for \$5 and RSVPs are due by May 1<sup>st</sup> by calling 429-4195.

## Evangelism Seeds

Research indicates that first-time worship visitors form an opinion about a church within the first thirty seconds. Will those who visit Central come away with a positive impression? Will they think our church is friendly? Will they see that this is a place where they can belong? If you see a guest at church, do everything you can to extend your hand and welcome them; introduce yourself and make sure they know where to go. You might even want to offer to sit with them. Just remember, we will never get another chance to make a first impression. Let's make sure the first impression is a positive one!



## Sunday, April 23, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Mertz & Marilyn Ward, piano duet  
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

## Monday (24)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-CCC Friends, Bushey house  
8:15-Volleyball, Webster Cantrell Hall

## Tuesday (25)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study  
11:45-Fit Lunch Club, Disciple Room  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:30-Stewardship Dept., Disciple Room  
6:30-NWRAPS, Great Hall  
7:00-Dorcas, home of Joy Adams

## Wednesday (26)

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

## Thursday (27)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (28)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

## Counting On You

### April 16

Worship Attendance ..... 489  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 71

## In the Hospital...

### Decatur Memorial:

Irene Roe, Lilabelle Traylor

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**Serving Schedule—April 23, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Kevin Otis, Cindy Soebbing

**Elders Serving Hospital Communion:**

**St. Mary's Hospital:** Harold King

**Decatur Memorial:** Julie Martin

**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 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 - Dean & Janet Gray, Harold & Bess King

10:45 - Larry & Deborah Foster, Glen & Jody Featherstun

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** ChristCare Stitches

**Children's Worship:** Teri Bushey

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

**Acolytes:**

10:45 - David Martin, Joshua Bushey

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

**Preparation of Communion:**

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

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

**April 26 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Sara Field, Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

Apr. 24 9:00-12:30 - Sara Field

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Apr. 25 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders

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

Apr. 26 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Apr. 27 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor

Apr. 28 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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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

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