



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, May 24, 2006

No. 19

Honoring Central's 2006 High School Graduates



Laura Potter, Debra Fulk, Andrew Rutherford, Zach Martin, Jordan Backes, and Alex Harm were recognized during worship and treated to a Graduates Breakfast on Sunday, May 21st. Laura is the daughter of **Terrie & Dr. Paul Potter** and is a graduate of MacArthur High School. Debra is the daughter of **Theresa & Andy Fulk** and is a graduate of Cerro Gordo High School. Andrew is the son of **Penny & Gary Rutherford** and is a graduate of MacArthur High School. Zach is the son of **Julie & Don Martin** and is a graduate of MacArthur High School. Jordan is the son of **Jeannie & Keith Backes** and is a graduate of Mt. Zion High School. Alex is the son of **Christine Lyman-Harm & Tom Harm** and is a graduate of MacArthur High School. Congratulations to our Central Class of 2006!

2006 Neil Ewing Awards and Scholarships Presented

Jordan Backes, Alex Harm, Zach Martin & Andrew Rutherford were presented with the Neil Ewing Award at the Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2006 last Sunday. The award, in honor of the memory of Neil Ewing, is given in recognition of high moral character, commitment to the church and service to the community.

Our three named scholarships were presented at breakfast as well. The **Cocoa "Coke" and Lilabelle Traylor Scholarship** was presented to **Zach Martin** and **Sarah Fulk**. Zach will attend Culver-Stockton College and major in Theater. Sarah will attend Eastern Illinois University in pursuit of an elementary education degree.

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SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2006
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Something Wonderful is
Going to Happen

Text: Luke 24:44-53
Gretchen Barron

MUSICAMP 2006 is Coming!

The 2006 MUSICAMP will be June 12-16 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1329 Arbor Drive (their new location).

Again this year we will combine forces with First Baptist Church to present Musicamp. Children grades K-6 are encouraged to participate in this experience. There will be guest musicians to share their art. There will be singing, clogging, origami, choreography, handbells, puppets and more. Children will have an opportunity to share a talent on Friday in the Talent Show.

One of the purposes of the camp is to provide a program with music and related arts which stimulates creativity and experimentation within a Christian environment.

Registration forms are available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact **Don Martin**.

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!



Youth Column

**Central Youth
Sunday, June 4th
Central Youth Grades
6-12
3-6 p.m.**

Central Youth will celebrate the end of the school year with a picnic at Fairview Park on Sunday, June 9th. Hot dogs and hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring a lawn chair. Bring your bike if you want to join Pastor Robert for a bike ride on the Fairview Park trail. We will also have a variety of sports equipment available for your fun as well.

Wednesday/Thursday Night Specials Back for 2006

Central Youth (grades entering 6th - finishing 12th) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, beginning June 8th. A full schedule will be available soon. We will enjoy supper off the grill, basketball, volleyball, badminton, croquet, bocce ball, movies and swimming. Central Youth will not meet on Sunday afternoons from June through August.

Gretchen's Gleanings ...

Did you know that in the next two weeks, you will have an opportunity to participate in one of the most exciting and energizing movements to ever happen in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? Our Pentecost Special Offering, "... and God Adds the Growth", will be collected May 28th and June 4th. The entirety of this special offering will go toward the new church initiative in our denomination. It started in the year 2000 when then General Minister and President, Richard Hamm, cast his 2020 vision of where the church would be in 20 years. Part of that vision was a goal of the Disciples beginning 1000 new churches by the year 2020. Some scoffed at such a lofty goal, thinking it unattainable. But others caught the vision and began working toward the goal. And now, just a little over 5 years into the plan, more than 350 new congregations have been born.

Well ahead of projections, the new church movement within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has one of the highest sustainability and growth rates among all mainline denominations. At this rate, we will not only reach our goal, but will greatly exceed it as each year God adds growth beyond our greatest expectations! Of course, the numbers don't tell the real story. The real story lies in the lives of thousands of people whose lives are being transformed as they find a relationship with God in the midst of these new congregations. God truly adds the growth as individuals come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior and respond to God's call to be and to share this good news as they witness, love and serve in Christ's name.

In our region, the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, new church starts include Korean congregations in Chicago and Springfield; A GenX cell church in Peoria; a Native American congregation in Benton; a new Asian congregation "nested" at First Christian Church in Gurnee and a new Spanish church "nested" at the United Church of Milwaukee. Such growth brings new life, energy and vitality to all Disciples and indeed to the entire church as we witness the new signs of life springing up all around us.

Your gifts to the Pentecost Special offering directly support this exciting initiative in our church. The funding raised through this offering will provide for assessments, training, coaching, project funding, congregational materials and extensive assistance that help new congregations and their leaders at the beginning of their life cycle. Half of the offering remains right here in the Illinois/Wisconsin region to to empower and encourage more new churches, perhaps some that might spring up right in our own area! For more information and stories of transformation, click on the "new church" link on our website at www.ccdisciples.org. And remember to give generously to this exciting movement in our midst!

Like the early church, God calls us to respond faithfully to those who seek. We are called to support the new church movement with new levels of commitment and enthusiasm! We act in faith ... and God adds the growth.

Blessings, Gretchen

Desserts and DVD

Central's Peace & Justice Task Force invites you to our next film in our series on Sunday, June 4th at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall. The film is *Fish Can't Fly* and is 80 minutes long. Taking a secular point of view, the documentary explores the lives of gay men and women of faith as they recall their journeys to put their sexuality and spirituality in harmony. The Rev. John Biedler, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, will be our guest discussion leader for the evening. Desserts will be provided during the film.

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The **Roy O. and Rachel R. Schilling Scholarship** was presented to **Debra Fulk** and **Chris Stock**. Debra will attend Richland Community College in the fall to begin work on a degree in Physical Therapy. Chris attends Millikin University majoring in nursing.

The **Walter & Inabelle Kirby Scholarship** was presented to **Andrew Rutherford & Meagan Hinze**. Andrew will attend Culver-Stockton College in the fall and plans to major in Arts Management. Meagan attends Butler University in Indianapolis majoring in chemistry with a music minor. Congratulations to all of our award and scholarship recipients!

CCC KIDS Summer Lunch Club

Plans are being made for a seven week Wednesday afternoon Summer Lunch Club for children grades 1-5 beginning June 8th. Our theme this Summer is *AIR it's Everywhere!* We will gather for lunch at noon followed by a variety of activities including field trips to the Decatur Airport, local parks, and possibly the WAND TV Weather Center. We will also participate in an exciting tour of Central's Pipe Organ. Lunches will be provided most weeks. SLC will meet from noon – 3:30 p.m. Aftercare will be available for children from 3:30–5:30 p.m. with advance notice. Transportation to SLC will be provided each Wednesday upon request. Advanced reservations are required for transportation. Watch for more details very soon!

Sunday Breakfast Club

Sunday, June 4th when our earlier worship and Sunday School hours begin for summer, the Christian Education Department will resume the Sunday Breakfast Club. This summer, children & youth classes and their parents will have the opportunity to enjoy breakfast as part of their Sunday School experience. SBC will serve breakfast from 8:45-9:15AM in the Great Hall every Sunday during June, July & August. Following breakfast, children grades K-5 will meet for a *Journey through the Books of the Bible* which will teach the names and order of the books of the Bible along with some key events and characters. Youth grades 6-8 and 9-12 will meet with their classes after breakfast. Parents are welcome to stay with their child(ren) and enjoy breakfast before returning to their regular Sunday School class or stay and help with cleanup. A Young Adult/College group will meet at the tables in the Great Hall after breakfast for fellowship and discussion. The breakfast will be available on a donation bases and we will try our best to meet the needs of children with food allergies when we are made aware of the child's specific needs. Watch the Central Visitor for the SBC menu each week. Along with our main dish, fruit, yogurt, cereal, milk, juice, and coffee will be available each week. Plan now to join us for SBC this summer.

Counting On You

May 21

Worship Attendance 247
Sunday School Attendance 61



Sunday, May 28, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Ward, Piano;
Leslie Peart, Organ
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250

Monday (29)

Memorial Day Observed

Church & Office Closed

Tuesday (30)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-ChristCare, 218
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Wednesday (31)

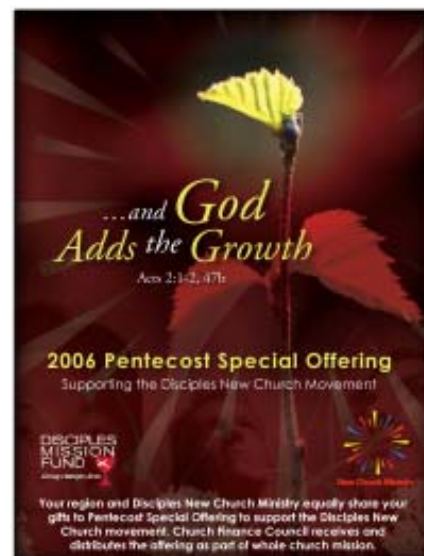
9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics
6:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

Thursday (June 1)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:00-Chancel Bells
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (2)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall



Serving Schedule—May 28, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Shirley Swarthout, Julie Martin

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Chris Fagin

Decatur Memorial: Kevin Wilmot

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 Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, 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 - Betty Cox, Betty Ann Roe, Mary Kincaid, Rita Woods

10:45 - Larry & Sally Thicksten, Steve & Carrie Funk

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Ed & Joy Adams

Parish Nurse:

 Liz Campbell

Children's Worship:

 Teri Bushey

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Jan & Ron Dobbs, Don & Virginia Swallow

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

May 31 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

May 29 *Memorial Day Observed*
Church & Office Closed

May 30 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 31 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - Chris Fagin

June 1 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 2 9:00-12:30 - Bonnie Sauer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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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