



The Central Visitor

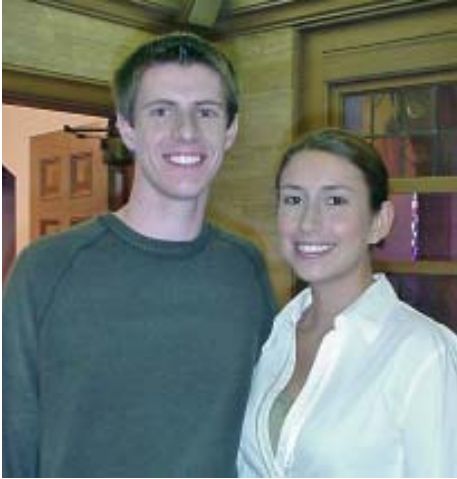
A weekly visitor to your home bringing you news from Central Christian Church

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, October 25, 2006

No. 43

Welcome New Members



Kyle Floyd & Elizabeth Kubala became members of Central by transfer of membership on Sunday, October 22.



Robert & Carol Wade joined Central's church family on October 22 by transfer of membership.



Melanie Weaver placed her membership with Central Christian by transfer of membership on October 22.



Joel Hadden reinstated her membership at Central on Sunday, October 22.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2006
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Youth Sunday
JOY!

Temperature Climbs on the Stewardship Campaign

Have you seen the Stewardship Campaign "thermometer" in the Friendship Center? As giving cards are received, more and more of the beautiful picture is revealed. We need to receive 109 cards more to see the full picture. Please turn in your giving card this week so that your church can know that we can count on you!



This Sunday, October 29, marks the end of Daylight

Savings Time. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour this Saturday evening, so you can enjoy that bonus hour of sleep before Sunday morning worship!

Last Chance to Order Poinsettias!

This Sunday is your last chance to order your Holiday Poinsettias and help raise funds for future mission trips! The locally-grown plants are in a 6 1/2 " pot with a decorative wrap and beautiful handmade, wired bow and sell for \$12.50 each. Order forms are available in the Friendship Center or you may call the church office at 428-4336. Payment must accompany your order. The plants will be available for pick-up the first Sunday of December.



Youth Sunday JOY!

October 29th

Central Youth will lead our morning worship services on Sunday, October 29th. The theme is JOY! Youth grades 6-12 will lead the liturgy and youth grades 3-5 are invited to help with ushering and greeting. Youth participating in the service should be at the church by 7:30 a.m. Youth serving as ushers and greeters should be at the church by 7:45 a.m. We will gather for a pizza lunch following second service.

Coming Events November 10-12th Regional Assembly Including a Pre-Assembly Event at the Field Museum

Speak to Pastor Robert for more details.

Friday, November 17th National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week Box City

Central youth will spend the night in cardboard boxes on the parking lot of Grace United Methodist Church. This event is sponsored by the Homeless Council Continuum of Care. More details to come.

Sunday, November 19th Thanksgiving Basket Project

We will join with other youth to help fill 3000 Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need in our community.

Robert's Reflections

I am amazed and somewhat alarmed by how very busy our children and youth are these days. When I began working with youth seventeen years ago, I was known to say to adults that if the then current trends continued our youth would be carrying day planners by the time they were beginning middle school. I observed then that children and youth were beginning to be overwhelmed by the many opportunities ready to fill every hour of their day. And, I remember some parents who felt like their children needed to be involved in every new extra-curricular activity offered.

Added to the seemingly infinite list of activities our children are invited to participate in are all of the technologically awesome gadgets that entertain and network our young people 24/7. I remember when Pong was the coolest item on the market. I was a master at Pong! Now our youth enjoy full color, high definition, surround sound stereo gaming systems that fit in the palm of their hand and allow them to compete with other players across the globe in what feels like real time. My other player was at the other end of the table top counsel turning his knob as fast as I was! My player in the game was a solid vertical line, now the players are so life-like they feel as if they could jump out of the screen at any moment.

I had a couple weeks of vacation recently when our boys were on their fall break from school. I built the boys a clubhouse, forest green with carrot orange trim (their favorite colors), with a slide and a ladder, two windows, two swings attached and a sandbox underneath. The clubhouse has no buttons to push, no lights that flash, no speakers or headphones to blast their eardrums, no mind-numbing lightning speed stimulation. Instead, the clubhouse is full of joy. Giggles, dreams, imagination, physical activity, shade from the heat of the sun and shelter from the cool breezes of the autumn, all waiting for them to create their worlds of fun.

I worry that our youth are losing their joy. I'm a techno geek myself and I love all the gadgets and all the wonderful opportunities for our children made available by so many great organizations. I worry though, that the miniature adult worlds we create for our kids steal their joy. And, I worry that when they become adults and when they worry, they will not have those deep roots of pure joy to grab hold of and enjoy life. Remember joy? Come to Youth Sunday worship this week, after you get your extra hour of sleep by changing your clocks back one hour, and we'll celebrate joy.

Peace & Joy, *Robert*

Disciples Class Sponsors "Take-Out" Dinner Fund Raiser

The Disciples Class is sponsoring a "Take-Out" Pork Chop Dinner on Sunday, November 5. The cost is \$7.50 per dinner, which includes a half pound pork chop, potato salad, baked beans, roll and butter. Home made desserts will be available at a nominal cost. The dinners will be available from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall.

All profits will support the Disciple Class sponsored scholarship fund. Buy your ticket in the Friendship Center this Sunday, before or after services.

Flu Shots Offered at Central

Mark your calendars! The Macon County Health Dept. is again offering flu and pneumonia vaccinations at Central on Tuesday, November 14 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Dinner and Jamboree

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 4 at 6:00 p.m. for a great time in the Great Hall. You will be served a dinner of pulled pork and all the fixin's. You will be joined at your table by choir members who will join you in the sing-a-long songs.

We will take a musical tour from New York to Colorado singing songs from several different musical styles including Early American, Cowboy songs and John Denver favorites. We will be led in singing by **Manley Mallard** of Millikin University and a group of musicians that are sure to please. There will also be a guest appearance by **Joe Dowell** who in 1961 had a number 1 hit called *Wooden Heart*.

Please invite your friends to enjoy this casual and fun evening in the newly renovated Great Hall and experience the new stage with all its possibilities.

Tickets (\$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 10 years or \$30 family rate) are available from Choir members, in the Friendship Center on Sunday, and at the office. Contact **Don Martin** for more information.

Bill Nichols' Newest Book Now Available

If you haven't picked up the latest book written by Bill Nichols (his first fiction), they are now available in the church office. *If Gold Shall Rust* is a mystery novel about the small town of Mapleton, Illinois and the mysterious murders of pastors in this small and usually quiet community.

The book is \$13.95 and checks should be made payable to **C. William Nichols**.

Central's Women are Invited to Explore "Circles of Growth"

Women and Friends of Central are invited to our 2007 Winter Retreat, February 22-23 at Camp One-Way (near Niantic). It may seem like a long way off, but now is the time to block off this weekend on your calendar and save it for some well-deserved rest and relaxation, study and inspiration. Our retreat leader will be Sylvia Mill, Associate Regional Minister in Indiana, who brings many years of experience and great insight into issues of spirituality and community and global concerns. Through our theme, *Circles of Growth*, we will explore our own spiritual journey, which like growth rings on a tree tells the story of our lives and the ways we can reach out, from our abundance, to make a difference in the world. The cost for the 24-hour retreat is \$75, which includes all meals, lodging and program expense. Scholarship assistance is also available. Registration forms will be available soon. Mark your calendars and plan to join us in February at Camp One-Way!

Register Now for Mission Trips in 2007

Registration and information packs are now available for our two 2007 mission trips to the hurricane-affected Gulf region, March 10-18 and June 23-July 1. Both groups will travel to the New Orleans area to assist individual families with the reconstruction of their homes. Tasks may include roofing, dry wall installation, painting, general cleanup and more. There will be a job for you to do, regardless of your physical ability or knowledge/experience. Cost per participant will be \$250 to cover travel, lodging and meal expenses, and scholarships will be available. You will also be responsible for purchasing your own meals during travel. Now is the time to plan ahead to participate in this life-changing experience!



Sunday, October 29, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
12:00-Youth Lunch, Pizza Hut

Monday (30)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (31)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-POP ChristCare, 218
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290
6:00-Young Adults, Bushey's house

Wednesday (November 1)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-Banner Committee, Disciple Room
6:30-Christian Education Dept., 280

Thursday (2)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:30-ChristCare, 290
5:00-Job Study, Great Hall
6:00-Chancel Bells
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (3)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center

Saturday (4)

6:00-Choir Dinner/Jamboree Fund
Raiser, Great Hall

Evangelism Seeds

"The least of things with a meaning is worth more in life than the greatest of things without it." (Carl Jung)

Invite someone to church this week and you may help them find new meaning in their life through a life-changing relationship with God!

Serving Schedule—October 29, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Youth

Ushers:

8:15 & 10:45 - Youth

Greeters:

8:15 - Gene & Sandy Garver, David & Connie Shields
 10:45 - Steve & Carrie Funk, Neil & Karen Baird

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Jim & Cathy Ash

Parish Nurse: Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

10:45 - David Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter
 10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Carroll & Doris Little, Connie Ogden, Jan Patrick, Connie Schabowski

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams
 Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams
 10:45 service only - Karen Baird

November 1 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field

Hosts:

Oct. 30 9:00-12:30 - Carol Charlton
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
 Oct. 31 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
 Nov. 1 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
 12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
 Nov. 2 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
 Nov. 3 9:00-12:30 - Bonnie Sauer
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Counting On You

October 22

Worship Attendance 325
 Sunday School Attendance 77

News From the Pews.....

Congratulations to **Christy**
 (Hawks) & **Scott Denney**, of
 Springfield IL on the October
 21st birth of their son, **Parker**



William. Proud grandparents are **Bill & Joyce Hawks**.

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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
 Katie Beal Childcare Coordinator
 Joanne Frady, Debra Fulk Childcare Providers
 Shelby Larrick, Kaylene Beal Childcare Providers
 Shelly Messmore Preschool Director
 Trudy Garland, Janet Langston Preschool Teachers
 Wendy Jalley, Kay Villarreal, Robin White Preschool Teachers
 Rudi Descaro Custodian
 David Flanders Custodian
 Dean Hadden Custodian
 Charles Wallace Custodian

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