



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, November 8, 2006

No. 45



Thanksgiving Dinner

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

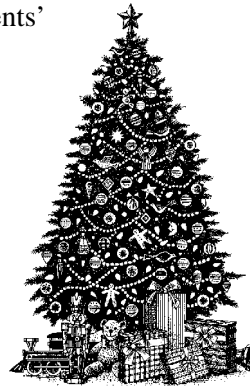
The Fellowship Department invites you and your family to an all church Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 19th, immediately following the 10:45 worship service. Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, and beverage will be provided by the Fellowship Department. Each family is asked to bring a salad or dessert, that will serve at least 10. Mark your calendars today and plan to join your church family on November 19th.

Children's Christmas Workshop, December 9th

The Christian Education Department is sponsoring a Children's Christmas Workshop on Saturday, December 9th from 10 a.m.-12 noon for children ages 3 yrs.-11 yrs. Children will be able to make Christmas gifts for their parents and siblings. Elves and helpers will be available to assist the children with their projects. Santa will also stop by for a visit. The cost for the workshop is \$5 per child. Plans are being made for a Parents' Day Out, on a donation basis, for children birth to 11 yrs. beginning at 12 noon and running until 4 p.m. Mark your calendar today and watch for your chance to register for the workshop in the Friendship Center.

Spirit of Christmas 2006

Preparations are under way for Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2006. Plan now to participate in this wonderful outreach ministry by either "adopting" one or more persons to share your spirit of giving with gifts that you provide, or by giving a cash donation to the program by marking your check made payable to the church with *Spirit of Christmas* written on the memo line. We are anticipating sharing with 100 children and adults from Webster-Cantrell Hall, Decatur Township Assistance, the Phoenix II alternative school and Hope Academy. Gift tags will be available in the Friendship Center beginning Sunday, November 19th. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, no later than Sunday, December 10th when they will be dedicated during our morning worship.



Need a Christmas Gift Idea?

Bill Nichols' most recent book, *If Gold Shall Rust* would make a great Christmas gift for the mystery buffs in your family. They are now available in the church office. The book is \$13.95 and checks should be made payable to **C. William Nichols**.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2006
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
When God Is Not Finished

Text: Ruth 1:15-21
Charles Watkins

Baby Blessing Service Scheduled

A Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents service has been scheduled for Sunday, November 26th during both services. If you wish to have your infant or child included in the service, please contact the church office (428-4336) as soon as possible.



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. Cost is \$30 for flu vaccine and \$42 for pneumonia vaccine. Medicare Part B is accepted.

Evangelism Seeds

"The work can wait while you show the child the rainbow, but the rainbow won't wait while you do the work."

(Patricia Clafford)

Don't miss the opportunity this week to invite someone to church for an experience of God's love and hope!

**Central Youth
Sunday, November 12th
5-7 p.m.**

**Fall Mystery Dinner
& Movie Night**

Join your friends for this special feast. If you are clever you may even get to eat! Friends are welcome!

**Friday, November 17th -
Saturday, November 18th
5 p.m. - 7 a.m.**

**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. Meet at Central at 4:45 p.m. Bring your sleeping bag and a flashlight. Dress in layers for warmth. Youth may be picked up at Central at 7:30 a.m.

**Sunday, November 19th
Thanksgiving Basket Project**

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

Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. and we will return by 8 p.m.

Coming Soon!

November 26th

Hanging of the Greens

December 3rd

Christmas Mission Project

December 9th

Parents Day Out

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

EMAIL Pastor Robert

If you didn't get an email from me this week, then I do not have your email address. I am also online many nights between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Yahoo Messenger. Email me rbushey@cccdisciples.org so you won't be left out of future notices, and become one of my IM friends.

Charles's Column

Some years ago *Texas Monthly* magazine regularly featured articles by its church critic who, much like a theater critic or a food critic, would travel across the state and visit various churches and write reviews of the services. If a church critic had visited our church last Sunday, maybe she would have written something like this:

I arrived at Decatur's Central Christian Church on All Saints Sunday to find a beautiful, tree-lined campus with clear and attractive signs posted at every corner to direct me to the sanctuary. I parked on a clean and expansive parking lot near the main entrance, and moved on a broad walk between attractive flower beds with dazzling fall mums. Inside the doors I found myself in a soaring and welcoming space, again with clear signs, and friendly people to greet and welcome me. Then came a huge gathering space milling with people greeting one another and picking up name tags, children gazing at the fish in the aquarium and playing with stuffed toys in a place set apart for them.

Entering the narthex, I was again greeted personally and welcomed, and then received a fat worship bulletin. I noticed that large print versions were available as well as large-print hymn books, personal hearing devices, and children's clipboards. I selected a padded oak pew just beyond the ones reserved for wheelchairs and walkers, and I began to inspect the bulletin. There was an easy-to-read order of service, a calendar of events and announcements, a page honoring members of the church who have died since the previous All Saints day and a remarkable booklet recognizing in word and photograph various special gifts received by the church in the past year along with lists of those who have honored former members with memorial gifts.

I looked around at the beautiful English gothic room with its majestic wooden trusses and its blue and red Celtic designs in stained glass. The service began with a hauntingly beautiful prelude by the church organist, some bothersome announcements by one of the staff, and then the whole congregation rose as the lights went up to full brilliance to sing *For All the Saints*.

The other music offered through the service was extraordinary—the two young women who played violin and harp following the listing of the saints, the three sopranos who harmonized so movingly with a terrific piano accompaniment, and then a fully balanced choir with a stirring anthem.

The sermon was concise and convincing and had a single, memorable point, that we are called to first things first, the first of which is love of God and neighbor. Then came communion, remarkably conducted by female clergy and elders, something you don't see every day. All believers in Christ were invited to receive the bread and cup in a meditative period. And then just an hour and five minutes after it began, the service ended with the congregation standing and singing and then a rousing concert quality postlude from the pipe organ.

It was a wonderful experience of worship, and I look forward to attending this amazing church again soon.

Charles Watkins

It's Time for Dorcas Soup Days!

The women of Dorcas are reminded that Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18, are our annual "Soup Days." Soup preparation takes place on Friday. Packaging and delivery happens on Saturday. Pies need to be at the church no later than 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. **Carol Graham** and **Azalee Berner** are the chairwomen for "Soup Days" if you have any questions. Thank you to all who will be participating in this project!

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Jeff & Julie** (Featherstun) **Crague**, of Indianapolis, following the November 2nd birth of their daughter, **Isabel Morgan**. Proud grandparents are **Glen & Jody Featherstun**.

Congratulations to **Clark & Mary Waldmier**, who were crowned as Alumni King and Queen at last month's homecoming at Illinois State University in Bloomington.

Alternative Gift Giving Coming Soon

The Christian Action and Community Service Department invites you to participate in the Alternative Gift Giving program for 2006. You are invited to make a tax-deductible donation to one of our seven worthy outreach organizations in honor of someone for the holiday season: Baby Talk, ChristCare Stitchers, DOVE, Good Samaritan Inn, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, and the Oasis Day Center for the homeless.

Here's how the program works: you stop by the Alternative Gift Market near the West Entrance on Sundays, December 3rd & 10th; make a donation in someone's name to one of our seven organizations; and we will provide you with a certificate or card to send to your loved one telling them of the wonderful gift you have made in their honor for the holidays. It is really that simple and that hard to buy for person, who has everything anybody could possibly want and more, is well taken care of! Plan now to make Alternative Gift Giving a part of your Christmas experience in 2006.

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 is \$250 to cover travel, lodging and meal expenses, and scholarship 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!

Just Flicks Film Series

Hotel Rwanda, the next film in the "Just Flicks" Film Series will be shown at 6:00 p.m. on November 12 in First Presbyterian Church. The film recounts the Rwandan conflict and resulting genocide in the 1990's. This film is rated PG-13 for violence, disturbing images and brief strong language.

A discussion will follow the screening, cosponsored by Central's Peace and Justice Task Force and First Presbyterian's Peacemaking Committee. Dessert and drinks will be available.

Counting On You

November 5

Worship Attendance 317
Sunday School Attendance 76



Sunday, November 12, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Michael Brown, Tenor
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Marilyn Ward, Piano
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
5:30-Youth Group

Monday (13)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-MCCOCP meeting, Disciple Room
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (14)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
9:00-1:00-Macon Co. Flu Vaccinations, Disciple Room
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
5:00-CADV, Great Hall
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290
5:30-Worship Dept., Parlor
6:00-Young Adults, Bushey's home
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

Wednesday (15)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-3:00-HSAC Volunteer Tea, Great Hall
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:30-Fellowship & Shepherding Depts., Disciple Room

Thursday (16)

10:00-Alanon, 212
12:00-CIOP Meeting, Disciple Room
1:30-ChristCare, 290
5:00-Job Study, Great Hall
6:15-Baby Talk Family Reading Night, Great Hall & Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (17)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

Saturday (18)

Dorcas Soup Morning, Great Hall Kitchen

Serving Schedule—November 12, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Pepper, Tom Spry

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Cathy Ash

Jim Ash

Neil Baird

Debbie Bateman

Philip Bateman

Azalee Berner

Warren Berner

Dale Ford

Judy Ford

Alex Harm

Elders

Larry Otis

Bruce Williams

Cindy Soebbing

Connie Bordner

Shirley Swarthout

Larry Thickestn

Kevin Wilmot

Jan Baird

Carol Graham

Mary Jane Linton

Alternate: Kevin Otis

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, 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 - Don & Brenda Tankersley, HH & Hilary Critchfield

10:45 - Jim, Myra, Daniel Hinze, Roy Schilling

Children's Worship:

Melinda Hawbaker

Parish Nurse:

Liz Campbell

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Steve & Carrie Funk Family

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarett Bednar

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Jean & Judson Pease, Claudia Curry, Kevin & Kim Miller

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

November 15 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Nov. 13 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Nov. 14 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Nov. 15 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thickestn

Nov. 16 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Nov. 17 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance

12:30-4:00 - Juanita Reynolds

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
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

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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

