



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, November 22, 2006

No. 47

## Hanging of the Greens This Sunday

All members and friends of the congregation are invited to participate in the traditional Hanging of the Greens Service this Sunday, November 26 at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service, which lasts less than one hour, prepares our sacred space for the celebration of Advent and Christmas and includes wonderful music of the season.



## Music for a Merry Christmas

Central organist **Leslie Peart** will present an organ concert in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10 at 4:30 p.m. with help from **Carol Graham**, pianist, and vocal soloists **Connie Bordner**, **Karen Driver**, and **Lucien Smith**. This concert is free and open to the public and will present an excellent opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and family to join you at church for beautiful music of the season.

## Spirit of Christmas 2006

Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2006 has begun. Seventy cards remain as of this issue. You may 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*. We are sharing with 100 children and adults from Webster-Cantrell Hall, Decatur Township Assistance, the Phoenix II alternative school and Hope Academy. Gift tags are available in the Friendship Center. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, no later than Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> when they will be dedicated during our morning worship.

## Empowered to Meet the Demands of Life!

**Claudia Quigg** writes, "My life is often way busier than I would like it to be. But for the past two years, I have given myself the gift of time to attend Central's women's retreat. The laughter, love and spiritual nourishment I have received there has empowered me to face the demands of my life. I can't recommend it highly enough." Registration forms are now available for our next Women's Retreat, February 22-23, 2007. Pick up a brochure in the Friendship Center this Sunday and make plans to join us for a refreshing, relaxing and renewing weekend in February.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2006**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

**The Alpha and the Omega**

Text: Revelations 1:4b-8

Charles Watkins

## Congregational Meeting

The congregation will meet to take action on the 2007 budget on Sunday, December 3 at 11:55 a.m. in the Great Hall. All members are invited to attend and vote.

## 2006 Central Family Pictorial Directories Are Here!

The 2006 Central Pictorial Directories have arrived and the Public Relations Department will have them available for pick up in the Friendship Center beginning this Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Each family whose picture was taken or submitted for the directory will receive a free copy. Extra copies will be available for \$10 each.

Thank you to **Shirley Swarthout**, Chair of the Public Relations Department for overseeing the publication and for her many hours of effort to have so many of our members included in the directory. Special thanks to **Tami Longcor** for design and layout of the ministry pages in the front of the album, to **Wayne and Donna Rutherford** for the group photography of our church leaders, classes, and musical groups, and to **Steve Swarthout** for photography including the cover photo. And, thank you to our church secretaries **Valerie Rozanski** and **Pat Beals** for their assistance. We hope you enjoy our wonderful new family picture album.

## Central Youth

### Thanksgiving Basket Project

Six Central youth and three adults joined over 450 people from our community to pack more than 45,000 food items and thousands of extras into 3,000 boxes, stack the boxes in delivery piles, and clean up the left-over packaging all in less than 90 minutes! Monday morning 3,000 frozen turkeys were scheduled to arrive and the boxes were to be delivered to Decatur families in need in our community. What an amazing outreach project!

### Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> Hanging of the Greens

Central Youth are encouraged to attend the Hanging of the Greens service at 4:30 p.m. this Sunday. After the service we will share in a cookie exchange. Bring a dozen or more cookies and take home as many - that you don't eat that is - be creative! We will finish by 6 p.m.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas Mission Project

December 9<sup>th</sup> - Parent's Day Out  
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

December 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Caroling & Party

Pre-Register for Summer 2007  
Mission Trip

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Slidell, Louisiana

Youth entering grade 9 - finishing  
grade 12.

Cost \$25 pre-registration  
\$100 total.

### EMAIL PASTOR ROBERT

If you didn't receive an email from me this week, then I do not have your email address. I am also online many nights after 8 p.m. on Yahoo Messenger. Email me at [rbushey@ccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@ccdisciples.org) so that you will not be left out of future notices and become one of my IM friends.

## Invitation to Respond to the 2007 Budget

All members of Central Christian Church are invited to attend an Open Forum on Sunday, November 26 in the Great Hall following the second service and a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 3 following the second service. The focus of both meetings will be the 2007 budget for the congregation in light of the following realities.

- Requests from the departments to operate the mission and ministries of the church in 2007 are \$97,450 more than the anticipated income.
- The Stewardship Department meeting on November 7, reduced proposed expenditures by \$27,450, in Personnel, Property, and World Outreach leaving a deficit balance of \$70,000 for next year.
- To further reduce anticipated expenditures by \$70,000 would require severe reductions in staff and program by Christmas 2006.
- Rather than suffer the devastating effects of staff and program cuts immediately, the Stewardship Department and the Church Council recommend that we use up to \$70,000 of the operating reserve to "buy time" as required to maintain current staff and program levels into 2007, with the understanding that during the early months of next year, we must achieve an increase in income or the reduction of ministerial staff. (Clerical and custodial staff have already been reduced in previous years). If one or more of our ministers are able to relocate to other communities by the summer of 2007, the need to use the operating reserve will be reduced.
- Support of the Disciples Mission Fund is budgeted at 10% (a tithe) of anticipated income. Because Central is such a significant donor to the Disciples Mission Fund (12<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. and Canada), further cuts will have serious consequences for our regional ministry which is currently in financial crisis, reducing six ministerial positions to three, and to our ministries around the world.

### Dorcas Disciples Receive Note of Thanks

What a tasty and delicious home cooked meal you brought me for Thanksgiving. It was "soup-er"! God bless you all for your Christian love and thoughtfulness. Each of you is surely an angel.

Your friend in Christ,  
**Roe Skidmore**

## 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. This year you may purchase alternative gifts in honor of your loved ones from 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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>; 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!

## Children's Christmas Workshop, December 9<sup>th</sup>

The Christian Education Department is sponsoring a Children's Christmas Workshop on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 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 Parent's Day Out, on a donation basis, for children birth to 11 yrs. beginning at noon and running until 4 p.m. Mark your calendar today and return your registration form this Sunday to register for the workshop.

### ***Evangelism Seeds***

*"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which everyone has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which everyone has some."* (Charles Dickens)

As you count your blessings and give thanks to God this week, express your gratitude to your church by inviting someone you know to come and worship with you – they will be grateful!



### **Sunday, November 26, 2006**

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Chancel Bells  
8:15 Anthem-Central Singers  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse, Jane Latshaw  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
11:55-Congregational Forum, Great Hall  
4:30-Hanging of the Greens Service

### **Monday (27)**

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

### **Tuesday (28)**

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290  
6:00-Young Adults, Bushey's home  
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

### **Wednesday (29)**

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 280  
5:30-Meeting of Vice Presidents &  
Department Chairs, Disciple Room

### **Thursday (30)**

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:30-ChristCare, 290  
5:30-Evangelism Dept., Pastabilities  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### **Friday (December 1)**

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
6:00-Staff Christmas, Tuscany

### **Saturday (2)**

9:30-Dorcas Christmas Brunch, home  
of Carol Graham

## **Counting On You**

### **November 19**

Worship Attendance ..... 302  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 79

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**Serving Schedule—November 26, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Thicksten, Randy Brooks

**Elders Serving Hospital Communion:**

**St. Mary's Hospital:** Tom Spry

**Decatur Memorial:** Roe Skidmore

**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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Kim Downey, Ryan Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey  
10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

**Greeters:**

8:15 - Max & Evelyn Sperry, Al & Chris Fagin  
10:45 - Sid Rotz, Carroll & Doris Little

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

**Children's Worship:** Teri Bushey

**Acolytes:**

10:45 - Erik Harm

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Donna Dash  
10:45 - Larry Pepper

**Preparation of Communion:**

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

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders  
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes  
10:45 service only - Bruce Williams

**November 29 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Sara Field, Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

Nov. 27 9:00-12:30 - Sara Field  
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis  
Nov. 28 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Nov. 29 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Nov. 30 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Dec. 1 9:00-12:30 - Bonnie Sauer  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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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