



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, December 6, 2006

No. 49



Music for A Merry Christmas

This Sunday, Central's organist **Leslie Peart** along with pianist, **Carol Graham** and vocal soloists from the chancel choir—**Connie Bordner**, **Karen Driver**, and **Lucien Smith**—will present the annual Candlelight Christmas Concert at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. You will be invited to “sing along” on a medley of first verses of

familiar songs of the season. This program of entertaining and meaningful music will enhance your Christmas spirit and delight all whom you invite to join you at the concert.

Symphony Sunday is December 17

As part of Central's annual “Come Home for Christmas” festivities, Conductor **Michael Luxner** and members of the **Millikin Decatur Symphony Chamber Orchestra** will join Central's musicians in both morning worship services for a joyous celebration of the season. It's an excellent opportunity to invite family and friends to experience the Central difference at its best.

You're Invited to Come Home for Christmas

You and your family are invited to Come Home to Central on Sunday, December 17th as we celebrate our theme, *Bringing Hope This Christmas*. This year, our Fellowship and Shepherding departments will host a delicious brunch at 9:15 a.m. and an equally delightful lunch at noon, both in the Great Hall. The menu will include Baked Ham, Hash Brown Casserole and Croissants. Added with the brunch will be Scrambled Eggs and Fruit Salad and the lunch will also include Jello Salad, Peas and Carrots and Cake. Vocal ensembles will entertain during both meals. Call the church office (428-4336) or return your response card by this



Sunday, December 10th to guarantee a place is reserved for you at the table

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, DECEMBER 10, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Finding Hope in the Fire

Text: Malachi 3:1-4

Gretchen Barron

Budget for 2007 Approved

In a congregational meeting last Sunday, 92% of those attending voted to approve the proposed budget for 2007 with its large deficit. A monitoring team has been appointed by congregational president **Chris Fagin** to determine early next year whether additional commitments being made will be sufficient to sustain present levels of staff and program.

How to Revise your Giving Plan 2007

Any member may revise a giving plan for 2007 by filling out a new giving card found in the pew pockets or on the ledge by the church office. Mark your card “revision” and it will be included. Only 80% of regular contributors to our church have completed a card for 2007. Eleven revisions made so far have cut the projected 2007 deficit almost in half. Your decision makes a difference!

Poinsettias Ready for Pick Up

Several poinsettias remain in the Heritage Center. If you have not yet picked up your order, please do so this Sunday. We will continue to keep them watered so that you might enjoy the beautiful plants as they help bring holiday joy into your home. Please check off by your name on the list, so that we know you've received them.

Central Youth

Parent's Day Out December 9, 12 noon-3 p.m.

Youth are needed to help staff our Parent's Day Out following the Children's Christmas Workshop.

Christmas Caroling & Party December 17, 4:00- 7:30 p.m.

Central Youth grades 3-12 will bring tidings of comfort and joy to several Central families this Sunday. After caroling we will stop at Pastor Robert's house for a Christmas Party. Bring a small gift (under \$5) for a fun Christmas Game. Youth may be picked up at the party.

Pre-Register for Summer 2007 Mission Trip June 23rd - July 1st 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@cccdisciples.org so that you will not be left out of future notices and become one of my IM friends.

Invite Someone to Experience the Hope of Christmas at Central

We had an enthusiastic response last week to the invitation cards which were passed out following both morning services. The small, invitation cards are available for you to hand out to family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances – anyone you know who is not currently active in a church in the Decatur area. If you took cards last week, please remember to hand them out to folks as you personally invite them to one of our many worship services, concerts or programs this Holiday season. Additional cards will be available this Sunday in the Friendship Center. Help yourself as we work together to “Bring Hope this Christmas”!

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, December 13th

We invite you to come and enjoy lunch with Central's fellowship group for those at least 55 years young! We will meet at noon on Wednesday, December 13th in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Baked Ham Balls, Baked Beans, Scalloped Potatoes, Ribbon Salad and Christmas Cake. The food is lovingly prepared with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, **Karen Driver, Gretchen Barron** and **Marilyn Mertz** will share beautiful music of the season. To sign up, you will need to call the church office (428-4336) or mark “Elderberries” next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. Reservations cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. on Monday, Decemberth, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

Alternative Gift Giving Continues This Sunday

You are invited to participate in the Alternative Gift Giving program for 2006 by making a tax-deductible donation to one of our seven worthy outreach organizations in honor of someone for the holiday season. Here's how the program works: you stop by the Alternative Gift Market in the Church Parlor this Sunday, 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. Plan now to make Alternative Gift Giving a part of your Christmas experience in 2006.

Spirit of Christmas Gifts to be Dedicated

Ten names remain to be adopted for our *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2006. 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. You may still 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*. Gift tags are available in the Friendship Center.

Dorcas Disciples Notecards Available!

Dorcas Disciples are selling Central Christian Church note cards. The cards, showing three different pictures of our beautiful church, are available in packages of 12 for \$10. Proceeds of the sale will be divided among the Disciples Mission Fund, Dove, Inc., and the Central Christian mission trip experience.

Note of Thanks Received

It's so comforting to be able to count on the pastors, members, and staff at Central! God is at work in the church. My family and I thank you for your prayers, visits, calls and cards.

We love you!
Dottie Scholes & Family

Central's radio commercials, being aired on WSOY, can now be heard on Central's website www.cccdisciples.org. Look for the **Bringing Hope This Christmas** logo and scroll down to the links. Our Advent devotionals are also available on the website.

A Thoughtful Gift for the Woman in Your Life!

Here's a thoughtful gift suggestion that you can purchase for the special woman in your life ... give her the gift of a weekend away to renew and refresh at Central's Women's Retreat, February 22-23, 2007. The retreat promises to be a time of rest and renewal, great fun and fellowship and fabulous food – think of it as “a spa for the soul”. It is the perfect way to pamper your significant other and let her know how important she is to you. Gift certificates are now available for those who would like to purchase the \$75 registration as a Christmas gift, complete with a beautiful handmade card for gift-giving. See the display in the Friendship Center or speak with **Pastor Gretchen** for more information.

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. Plan ahead to participate in this life-changing experience!

Giving Statements Mailed

Regular financial supporters of this church are receiving this week in the mail grateful acknowledgments of all your gifts through November 26. With just one month and an accumulated deficit of \$28,000 remaining before the end of the year, please review your giving record and fulfill your giving plan in December. Every single gift makes a difference. Thank you for supporting your church.

Counting On You

December 3

Worship Attendance 251
Sunday School Attendance 64



Sunday, December 10, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Janice Mitchell, Jan Baird, Marilyn Mertz - Trio
10:45-Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Jeannie Backes
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
11:30-Ecclesia Fellowship Christmas Party, Great Hall
4:30-Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
5:30-Youth Movie Night

Monday (11)

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

Tuesday (12)

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

Wednesday (13)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
1:30-3:00-Low Vision Support Group,
Disciple Room
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:30-Fellowship & Shepherding,
Disciple Room

Thursday (14)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Baby Talk Teen Christmas Party,
Great Hall
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (15)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
7:00-Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday (16)

8:00-11:00-Food Prep. for Good Sam.
11:30-Hunger Relief Team, Good Samaritan Inn
3:30-Sanctuary Wedding, Emy Logue & Brice Stewart

Serving Schedule—December 10, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Shirley Swarthout, Wayne Honeycutt

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Christine Lyman-Harm	Wayne Honeycutt
Ernestine Mrozinski	Linda Kuhns
Kelly Swallow	Brett Swallow
Ron Oliver	Lois Whitaker
Dave Phillips	Bob Smith
Nita Phillips	Kevin Wilmot
Neil Baird	Larry Otis
Janet Thicksten	Randy Brooks
Larry Thicksten	Larry Chapman
Kathy Thornton	Jan Dobbs
	Alternate: Chris Fagin

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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Ruby Agnew, Betty Beebe, Willie Birkhead, Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos

10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Marilyn Blank, Bob Harmon, Billie Harmon

Greeters:

8:15 - Jim & Pamela Bednar, Ed & Joy Adams

10:45 - Ed & Lucy Acheson, Jim & Lois Whitaker

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Children's Worship: Christine Lyman-Harm

Parish Nurse: Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Barbara Beyer, Karen Baird, Donna Dash, Gerri & Mike Munos

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
 Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams
 10:45 service only - Bruce Williams

December 13 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

Hosts:

Dec. 11 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
 12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Dec. 12 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
 12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Dec. 13 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
 12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Dec. 14 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Dec. 15 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
 12:30-4:00 - Juanita Reynolds

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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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

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