



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, December 13, 2006

No. 50

## Welcome Symphony Musicians This Sunday

**Dr. Michael Luxner**, conductor of the Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra and members of the chamber orchestra will join Central's musicians in glad celebration at both morning services in our sanctuary this Sunday. We will sing favorite carols of the season and listen to beautiful music of celebration. This is the ideal moment to invite someone you know to receive the gift of hope through your church this season. Let's fill our sanctuary twice this Sunday!



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2006**

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

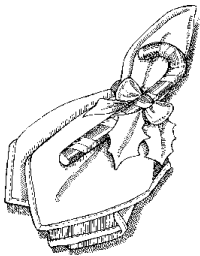
**Rejoice and Exult!**

Text: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Charles Watkins

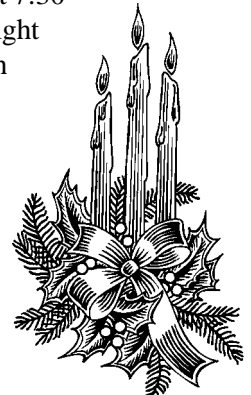
## You're Invited to Come Home for Christmas

If you've not yet called in your reservation for the Come Home for Christmas brunch or lunch this Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, please do so by noon on Friday. You and your family are invited to 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 music ensembles will entertain during both meals.



## Worship on Christmas Eve

There will be one morning service on December 24 at 10 a.m. and one evening service at 7:30 p.m. with candlelight communion. Each service is planned to last just one hour. Plan your family's holiday weekend to include worship of Christ the newborn king.

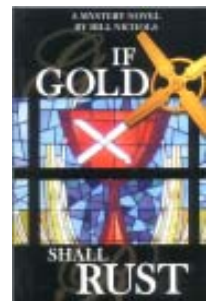


## A Thoughtful Gift for the Woman in Your Life!

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.

## 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**.




2006 Christmas Special Offering  
**GO TELL IT  
 ON THE MOUNTAIN**  
 "God sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. We saw his Son  
 and are now telling others about him"  
 — 1 John 4:14 (CEV)  
 Give generously to support the ministry of your Region.  
 This special offering, part of whole church mission, is received and distributed  
 for Disciples through the Church Finance Council.

## Central Youth

### Christmas Caroling & Party

December 17<sup>th</sup>  
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.

### Coming 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

#### Wisconsin Dells Trip

July 8-15

The Inn

at Glacier Canyon

Youth entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade -  
finishing 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Spend the week with your  
friends from Central!

Indoor/Outdoor Water Parks

Wisconsin DUKW Tours

And MUCH MORE!

Mark your Calendar Today!

### ***Evangelism Seeds***

*"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."* (Marcel Proust)

Help someone you know look at the world through new eyes of faith! Invite them to church and introduce them to a life-changing relationship with God!

## Charles's Column

In all the excitement of advent events throughout the congregation, we are acutely aware that these rituals and celebrations carry a heavy burden of grief for some among us. While the church correctly proclaims joy and calls for glad singing, we know that these busy happy days are truly painful to those who find each day a challenge and each carol a reminder of what has been lost. Loneliness seems to intensify during a time when it seems the whole world is focused on family and feasting. The lighted trees and hanging garlands are reminders of other Christmases when those we love but see no more were part of our celebrations.

What we need to remember is that the hope that we proclaim during this season is hope for the sad and those who walk in deep darkness as well as hope for those who are caught up in hectic preparations and shopping. Our Christmas hope is articulated in a hymn written by Professor Thomas Troeger of Yale University Divinity School and sung by Decatur's Opus 24 in its concert a few days ago

### *The Dream Isaiah Saw*

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,  
Leopards will join with the lambs as they play,  
Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,  
Blood will darken the Earth that God made.  
Little child whose bed is straw,  
Take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
Life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:  
God will transfigure the Violence concealed  
Deep in the heart of systems gain,  
Ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.  
Little Child whose bed is straw,  
Take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
Justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent,  
Nations obeying the call to repent,  
All of creation completely restored,  
Filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.  
Little child whose bed is straw,  
Take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
Knowledge, wisdom, worship awe.

—Thomas H. Troeger

Lantz Professor of Christian Communication  
Yale University Divinity School in his book  
*Borrowed Light: Hymn Texts, Prayers and Poems*



### News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Scott & Melinda Hawbaker** and family following the December 8<sup>th</sup> death of Scott's grandfather, *Wilbur Hawbaker*.....and to the family and friends of *Patricia Daniels*, who passed away on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 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!

### Notes of Thanks Received

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and kind thoughts while I have been ill, in and out of the hospital. Thanks, too, for the ministers and their kindnesses.

A special thank you to the ladies who sent me a lovely, delicious Thanksgiving day lunch.

So, to all of you, thank you from my heart.

**Lena Long**

Dear Dorcas Ladies,

Thank you so much for the delicious meal you brought us the week before Thanksgiving. We really appreciated it.

God bless you all,

**John & Alice Paradee**

### Central Responds to Ice Storm Needs

During the hours and days following the Ice Storm of 2006, Central responded to many different needs in our congregation and community. Early Friday morning, December 1<sup>st</sup>, we were in contact with the United Way's First Call for Help and the Macon County Emergency Management Agency coordinating efforts to open warming and feeding stations with other local churches as needed. Later, when the Decatur Public Schools were looking for spaces to hold classes we were again helping coordinate efforts with local churches. Through the Emergency Fund we have sheltered families, provided fuel for transportation and generators, and given to the Community Relief Fund.

Thank you to all who called to check on each other! Thank you to all who opened your homes to members and neighbors providing a warm place for those whose power was out, some for many days! Thank you to all who shared generators and provided temporary power and heat for others! Thanks to all who gave to the Community Relief Fund through the church or on your own! This month we have been focusing on our theme *Bringing Hope this Christmas*. Your response to the needs of many affected by the storm and power outages are bringing hope in very tangible ways right here in our community! Thank you, Central!



### Sunday, December 17, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Millikin-Decatur Symphony  
Chamber Orchestra, Dr. Michael Luxner, Conductor; Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw  
9:15-**Come Home for Christmas Brunch**, Great Hall  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
12:00-**Come Home for Christmas Lunch**, Great Hall  
4:00-Youth Caroling & Party at Robert Bushey's house

### Monday (18)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
6:00-8:00-Baby Talk Family Fun Night, Disciple Room  
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

### Tuesday (19)

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 (20)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
12:00-Central Singers

### Thursday (21)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:30-ChristCare, 290  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### Friday (22)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics, Great Hall/Heritage Center  
3:00-Wedding Rehearsal

### Saturday (23)

1:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Carolyn Swart & Martin Brown

### Counting On You

#### December 10

Worship Attendance .....306  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 78

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## Serving Schedule—December 17, 2006

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Lois Whitaker, 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 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 - Kevin & Mickie Wilmot, Clark & Mary Waldmier

10:45 - Warren & Azalee Berner, Clyde & Jean Booher

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - David Martin

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

**Children's Worship:** Kim Miller

### Preparation of Communion:

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

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

Rides Home After Christmas Lunch, Bruce Williams

### December 20 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

### Hosts:

Dec. 18 9:00-12:30 - Alice Brooks  
12:30-4:00 - Dee Hill

Dec. 19 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Dec. 20 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman  
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Dec. 21 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher  
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Dec. 22 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**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

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**Central Christian Church**  
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650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
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