



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, January 3, 2007

No. 1

Millikin Chamber Chorale Performs Concert at Central

You are invited to attend the **Millikin Chamber Chorale** homecoming concert at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, 2007 in Central's sanctuary.

The Chamber Chorale, under the direction of **Dr. Guy Forbes**, is a highly select mixed choir of 40 voices and is one of the top touring choirs at Millikin. Their repertoire this year features compositions by Francis Poulenc, Giovanni Groce, William Walton and David Dickau. The Chamber Chorale's program also includes carols, folk songs and spirituals arranged by such popular contemporary American composers as Mack Wilberg and Moses Hogan.

Mark your calendars, invite your family and friends, and plan to attend this inspiring concert.

Join us for laughter, love and spiritual nourishment!

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 laughter, love and spiritual nourishment the last weekend in February.

New Study Opportunity begins Wednesday, January 17th!

An exciting new eight-week study group will begin Wednesday, January 17th. Pastor Gretchen will lead us in an exploration of the book, *Serving from the Heart: Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service*. Using the acronym S.T.R.I.D.E., this resource encourages us to look at all aspects of our lives – our Spiritual gifts, Talents, Resources, Individual personality, Dreams and Experiences – as we explore the ways that we can share in ministry that reaches out to others and brings glory to God. We all know that, as Christians, we are expected to use our gifts and talents in ministry and service, but we don't always know where we can be most effective. If you've ever wondered how and where you can best serve, if you've ever questioned your purpose in the church, if you've ever asked God what direction you should take, then this is a study for YOU! Each Wednesday night session will begin at 5:30 p.m. with an evening meal that has been prepared for you. Following the meal, we will join in study and prayer together. Cost for the study book is \$8. Childcare will be provided for children in the nursery and children are invited to join the adults during the meal time. Sign up beginning this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

Giving Plan Complete?

If you did not complete your giving plan for the church in December, your gift now can reduce the deficit balance for the year and will be credited on your list of gifts in 2007.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2007

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Star Gazing

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Robert Bushey

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, January 10th!

Start out the new year right! All of Central's members and friends, at least 55 years young, are invited to join for lunch and fellowship in the Great Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. This month's gathering, on January 10th, will feature a menu of beef stroganoff with buttered noodles, mixed vegetables, tossed salad, rolls and dessert. The cost of the meal is now \$4.00, but is still the best deal in town! The food is lovingly prepared with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Following the meal, we'll join in a fun game of BINGO. Feel free to bring "white elephant" type items for the prize table. To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark *Elderberries* next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. If you think you would like to come but are not yet sure, please go ahead and make a reservation. We would rather have food left over than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, January 8th, so don't delay, reserve your place today!



Central Youth

**Sunday, January 7th
Epiphany Games
4:30-6:30 p.m.**

Youth Grades 3-5 and 6-12 are invited to our annual Epiphany Games. We will search for clues to solve a mystery. Bring a flashlight and a friend! This will be FUN!

**Winter Youth Party
January 28th
2-5 p.m.**

Vine Street Christian Church, Arthur
Youth grades 6-12.
Camp reunion and rally for Church Camp 2007!
Let's Get Real in 2007!

Coming Summer 2007
Koinonia Camp (gr. 3-8) -
June 11-16
Shalom Camp (gr. 9-12) -
June 25-30

**Wisconsin Dells Trip
July 8-15
The Inn at Glacier Canyon**

Youth entering 6th grade - finishing 12th grade.
Spend the week with your friends from Central!
Indoor/Outdoor Water Parks
Wisconsin DUKW Tours
And MUCH MORE!
Mark your Calendar Today!

Robert's Reflections

By now, many of you have packed away all the tinsel and lights, figurines and ornaments, candles and decorative tins that were so carefully placed around your home to remind all who entered, including yourself, that Christmas was coming. And, Christmas came and went. Hopefully, you found joy in all the celebration and ceremony, you found love in all the giving and receiving, you found hope in all the acts of kindness and charity, and you found peace in the proclamation of Good News and the promise for the future that the birth anew of our Savior brings into our lives.

By now, many of you have faced the reality of heading back to work after those fleeting days off we call the holidays. You have hung new calendars in your kitchen and office and your computer has adjusted its dating system to proclaim that the New Year is among us. The festivities have wound down and that new calendar you just hung was already half full of events and engagements when you acquired it last fall. How quickly it all comes to us, and how quickly it all goes by!

By now, most of us are glad for the return to the mundane. We are ready for the first school bell to ring. We are excited to see January with perhaps fewer events to attend to. We breathe a sigh of relief that we survived it all, and we pledge that next time we will be even more prepared, and far less frantic.

It must be time for the season of Epiphany. Our *Seasons of the Spirit Curriculum* describes Epiphany this way. *Between Christmas and Lent the church celebrates the Season after the Epiphany (also known as "Ordinary Time" in some traditions). The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." It is a time to focus on the manifestation of God in Christ to all the nations of the world. The church often reads the early stories of Jesus: the visit of the magi, Jesus' baptism by John, his calling of the disciples, his first miracle at the wedding at Cana. Through all these stories, God's power and mercy are made known and God's word of hope and love and life is proclaimed.*

The star is a symbol for Epiphany, recalling the star of Bethlehem that led the magi to the Christ child. The star symbol also points to light in general and to Christ the light of the world. Like a light in the darkness, God's love surrounds us, challenges us, and directs us.

This Sunday, January 7th we will celebrate Epiphany during our morning worship. Epiphany has been a time for the church of offering our gifts, as did the Magi, in service and in worship of the God of our Salvation who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. What gifts will you bring into this new year of mission and ministry with Central Christian Church? Will you bring your compassion and caring? Will you bring your talents for leadership and vision? Will you bring your openness to diversity? Will you bring your welcoming spirit ready to embrace all who come and worship? Will you bring your excitement about Central and your inviting spirit ready to encourage others to join with us on our journey of faith? Will you bring your prayers and your disciplined study of God's Word of hope and love for all people? Will you bring your resources and support for our common ministry in Christ? What will you bring?

"Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the Newborn King!"

Robert

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Carole and Francis Songer** following the December 29th death of her mother *Fern Hudson*.

Church Van Drivers Needed

We need additional drivers for church. We ask each driver to drive once a month. You also have the option of using your own car instead of driving the church van. There are three positions available.

- A. Picking up before 1st service and returning after Sunday school.
- B. Picking up before Sunday school and returning after second service.
- C. Rotating on those months which have 5 Sundays.

If you might be willing to volunteer, please phone **Bruce Williams** at 428-1994 (work), 429-3974 (home), or Email WildwoodPetClinic@yahoo.com. I would be very grateful for the interest. I think you will find this quite gratifying; the rest of us do.

Interested in participating in the Mission Trip to New Orleans?

If you are thinking about joining us for the March 10-18 mission trip to New Orleans, please let **Pastor Gretchen** know this week, either by calling the church office at 428-4336 or e-mailing her at gbarron@cccdisciples.org. We will have a meeting soon of all interested folks. Registration and information packs are available for both of the 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. (Scholarship will be available.) You will also be responsible for purchasing your own meals during travel. Plan now to participate in this life-changing experience!

Offering Envelopes

Did you receive a set of numbered offering envelopes for your gifts in 2006? If your set did not arrive, please phone the church office so that we can send your set this week. Using your numbered envelopes really helps the volunteers in the financial office. Please use your offering envelopes!

Evangelism Seeds

Most people visit a church for the first time because they are invited by someone they know. But what is it that brings visitors back for a second, third, or fourth visit? While it is true that some people may return or even join a church because of the pastor or the worship or the theology, most people return and join a church because of the welcome, the warmth, and the love they receive, and the authenticity of the members.



Sunday, January 7, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music:

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jeannie Backes

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

12:00-Women's Retreat Planning,
Parlor

4:30-Youth Epiphany Games

Monday (8)

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

10:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

4:00-Aerobics, 290

6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (9)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room

1:15-POP ChristCare

4:00-Aerobics, 290

5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

Wednesday (10)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280

12:00-Central Singers

12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall

1:00-4:00-Banner Committee, 207

1:30-3:00-Low Vision Support,

Disciple Room

4:00-Aerobics, 290

Thursday (11)

10:00-Alanon, 212

4:00-Aerobics, 290

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (12)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,

Great Hall/Heritage Center

Saturday (13)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Serving Schedule—January 7, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Julie Martin, Jan Dobbs

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Shirley Swarouth, Carol Graham

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Shelby Larrick, Charlie Ropp, Nicole Ropp, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, David Shields, Max Sperry

10:45 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Jon French, Melinda Hawbaker, Scott Hawbaker, Dee Hill, Karen McFadin, David Miller, Katie Miller, Janice Mitchell, Alex Otis, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 9 - Bruce, Carol, Allison, Jessica, & Maggie Stoddard

Greeters:

8:15 - Debbie Seaberg, Dottie Scholes, Larry & Gail Prince

10:45 - Ruth Ewing, Bonnie Sauer, Dale & Judy Ford

Parish Nurse:

 Jeannie Backes

Fellowship Coffee:

 John & Carol Graham

Acolyte:

 Brad Munos

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Carole & Francis Songer, Bob & Phyllis Logan, Mary Waldmier

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

January 10 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

Hosts:

Jan. 8 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Jan. 9 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Jan. 10 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Jan. 11 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Jan. 12 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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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Counting On You

December 31

Worship Attendance 265



Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

