



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, January 10, 2007

No. 2

## New Study Opportunity begins Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>!

An exciting new eight-week study group will begin Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. 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. 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.

## Central's Women's Retreat – a great time for women of ALL ages!

**Sarah Fulk** writes... *"Two falls ago, my mother invited me to join her at the Women's Retreat that Central was having at Camp One Way. I was reluctant at first to go, because I knew I would probably be the only young adult there. I went anyway, mostly to please my mother. When I got there, I discovered I was right, I was the only young woman in attendance. However, this did not stop me from having a good time. I mostly remember good fellowship, good discussions, good food, a nice trail walk, staying up late playing games, and having lots of fun. Most importantly, I remember growing in my faith. I encourage women of all ages to attend!"* 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. The deadline for registration is February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Interested in participating in the March 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](mailto:gbarron@cccdisciples.org). We hope to 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. Tasks may include roofing, dry wall installation, painting, general cleanup and more. Cost per participant is \$250 to cover travel, lodging and meal expenses, and scholarships are available. You will also be responsible for purchasing your own meals during travel. Now is the time to plan to participate in this life-changing experience!

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007 WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45 Unwrapping Our Gifts!

Text: I Corinthians 12:1-11  
Gretchen Barron

## Millikin Chamber Chorale Performs Concert at Central Christian Church

Be sure to attend the Millikin Chamber Chorale homecoming concert at 7:00 p.m. this Sunday, January 14, 2007 in the sanctuary of Central Christian Church.

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 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.

Plan to attend this inspiring concert.

## Evangelism Seeds

This is what one person has to say about why they share their faith ... *"I started inviting people to church and they became Christians. Now nine of my friends who weren't attending a church before are in my church. I love these people! I can't tell you what it means to me to have had a part in helping them move into faith."* (from *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese)



## Central Youth

**Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Youth Group**  
**4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Youth Grades 6-12 will meet at The Point for a regular meeting. Information on upcoming events/registration forms will be available.

**Winter Youth Party**  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**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!

**Check out the New CCC FORUM on the web at <http://>**

**[cccdisciples.informe.com](http://cccdisciples.informe.com)**

**Register and then you can post on the CCC Youth Board.**

**Coming Summer 2007**  
**Camp Schedule**  
**is on the CCC FORUM**

**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!**

## Gretchen's Gleanings...

I love to drive! I really do. Not so much the in-town, start and stop and sit-in-traffic-kind of driving, but distance driving. Perhaps it's in my blood. After all, before his retirement, my father was a truck driver. All I know is that I love to be out on the open road, to see the scenery and the road stretching before me for miles (not hard to do on the midwestern flatlands). I love the sound of the engine beneath my feet and the way the world whips past in a blur and I love the solitude you often find in the car (even with a cell phone clipped on the visor). Now mind you, it's not always a time of solitude, especially with a chatty seven-year-old in the backseat. But I do find even with Bethany, we have some of our most engaging and deepest conversations when we're in the car. Distance driving, for me, continues to be a time to think, a time to relax, a time to listen to music, a time without many of the distractions of home and office, and often a time when I am most able to let God speak to me. Our recent journey to Iowa for the holidays was no exception. When the car was finally packed and we were on our way, I had an opportunity to relax and clear my mind. As Bethany watched a DVD in the backseat with earphones on, I had an opportunity to listen to favorite Christmas CD's for the first time in nearly a year. On James Taylor's A Christmas Album, one particular song stood out and spoke to me in a new way. In the Bleak Midwinter is not a song that I've sung much nor one that has been counted among my favorites. But as JT's sweet, mellow voice filled the car, the words of the last verse particularly spoke to me. Perhaps it was the voice of God! Following descriptions of possible scenes at the manger and the second coming of Christ, Christina Rossetti, writing in 1872, penned these words (paraphrased). *"What then can I give him, empty as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would know my part. What then can I give him? I must give my heart."*

As we stand on the threshold of a brand new year, a brand new journey with the scenery stretching before us with unseen possibilities and unknown challenges, it is my prayer that each of us will truly be able to give our hearts in response to the wondrous gift of God given us in the birth of Jesus Christ -- to give our hearts in prayer; to give our hearts to listening, both to God and others; to give our hearts to the study of scripture; to give our hearts in service; to give our hearts in compassion; to give our hearts in zeal; to give our hearts in forgiveness; to give our hearts to new learning and understanding; to give our hearts to worship; to give our hearts in love; to give our hearts to God. *"What then can I give him? I must give my heart."*

Blessings, **Gretchen**

## Just Flicks Film Series Promotes Peace and Justice

**Just Flicks**, the Peace and Justice film series, continues on Sunday, January 21 with a showing of *Whale Rider* here in our Great Hall. This critically acclaimed film tells the story of an incredibly brave young girl who dares to confront the past, change the present, and have a hand in the future. It's a story of love, rejection, and triumph, as a young Maori girl in New Zealand fights to fulfill a destiny her grandfather refuses to recognize.

A light dessert will be served at 6 p.m. right before the film. Following the movie, our own **Karen Baird** will lead a brief discussion. The series is jointly sponsored by our Peace and Justice Task Force and the Peacemaking Committee of First Presbyterian Church.

## News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Tom & Stefanie Dockendorf** on the December 26<sup>th</sup> birth of their son **Vincent John Dale Dockendorf** of Oak Park, Illinois. Vincent is also welcomed home by his big brother, 2 year old **Rex**. Proud grandparents are **Connie & Jon King** and great-grandparents are **Harold & Bess King**.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bill & Mary Alice Rule** following the December 27<sup>th</sup> death of his brother, *Charles Robert Rule* of Bethany.....to **Louise Boline, Rosie Doore** and **Sara Field** following the January 3<sup>rd</sup> death of their uncle, *John Roy Gates*.....to **Marylou Lyman** and family following the death of her sister-in-law, *Barbara Bellinger* on January 5<sup>th</sup>.....and to **Dorothy Cargill** and family following the January 7<sup>th</sup> death of her husband, *Robert F. Cargill*.

## Church Van Drivers Needed

We need additional drivers for church. We ask each driver to drive once a month, and 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](mailto:WildwoodPetClinic@yahoo.com). I would be very grateful for the interest. I think you will find this quite gratifying; the rest of us do.



## Sunday, January 14, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music:

- 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
- 12:00-Ruby Agnew 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Reception, Parlor
- 4:30-Youth Group, The Point
- 5:30-Chorale Meal, Great Hall
- 7:00-Millikin Chorale, Sanctuary

## Monday (15)

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Church & Office Closed  
6:30-CC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

## Tuesday (16)

- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290
- 6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

## Wednesday (17)

- 9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
- 12:00-Central Singers
- 1:00-Banner Committee, 207
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 5:30-*Serving From the Heart* Study,  
Disciple Room

## Thursday (18)

- 10:00-Alanon, 212
- 4:00-Aerobics, 290
- 5:45-Church Council, Great Hall
- 6:15-Baby Talk Family Fun Night,  
Disciple Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (19)

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

## Counting On You

### January 7

Worship Attendance ..... 290  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 70

**Serving Schedule—January 14, 2007**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Wayne Honeycutt, Keith Backes

**Communion to Shut-Ins:**

<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Elders</b>
Charlotte Ballance	Mary Jane Oliver
Jane Davis	Jan Baird
Andy Fulk	Carol Graham
Sherri Hood	Mary Jane Linton
Bob Keller	Bruce Campbell
Karen Keller	Larry Otis
Nicole Ropp	Bob Smith
Debbie Seaberg	Janet Lyman
Connie Shields	Julie Martin
David Shields	Shirley Swarthout
	Alternate: Wayne Honeycutt

**Deacons:**

8:15 - Team 1 - Chris Fagin, Capt., Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Sally Force, Gene Garver, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Joe Lewis, Brittney Munos, Gail Prince, Larry Prince, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox

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, Erik Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Daniel Hinze, David Martin, Ernestine Mrozinski, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Donna Strong, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

**Ushers:**

8:15 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Ruby Agnew, Willie Birkhead, Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos

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

**Greeters:**

8:15 - Greg & Jo Carter

10:45 - Andy & Theresa Fulk, Wayne Honeycutt, Pamela Ferguson

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

**Children's Worship:** Teri Bushey

**Acolytes:**

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Avery Martin

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Keith Backes

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Mike & Gerri Munos Family

**Preparation of Communion:**

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

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

**January 17 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

Jan. 15 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Church & Office Closed

Jan. 16 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

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

Jan. 17 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Jan. 18 9:00-12:30 - Dean Gray

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Jan. 19 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance

12:30-4:00 - Juanita Reynolds

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