



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, January 17, 2007

No. 3

For Your Calendar

Please write in your fresh, new 2007 calendar the date of a major musical event in our church and community. On February 18, 2007, at 4:30 p.m., Central will host **James O'Donnell**, the principal organist at Westminster Abbey in London in concert on the Diller Memorial Organ in our sanctuary. Mr. O'Donnell is the only person in history to serve as organist both in the Roman Catholic cathedral in London and at the famed Westminster Abbey. He is a stellar artist, and you must hear him play. A free will offering will be received at the concert to help with the cost of his appearance here.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Praying for Christian Unity

Text: II Corinthians 5:16-21
Charles Watkins

Amazing, Fantastic, Good News!

At the close of 2006, Central Christian Church ended the year "in the black," having wiped out its accumulated operating deficit by the generous giving of current and past members. This is only the second time in the twenty-first century that Central's operating fund has ended the month with "money in the bank."

Did you really have to stretch to fulfill your giving plan for 2006? Did you sacrifice to make an additional end-of-the year gift to help your church? Congratulations! Your generous and dedicated effort was entirely successful! You demonstrated your gratitude to Jesus and your loyalty to your church, and you did what we haven't done for a long, long time! You fully underwrote the mission and ministry of your church. You did well and you did good!

Thank you! Bless you! And don't stop! A grateful acknowledgement of all your gifts to Central in 2006 was mailed last week as your official tax receipt for all you gave to your church last year.

Registration Deadline Nears for Central's Women's Retreat!

Theresa Fulk writes... *"I didn't know what to expect the first time I attended the Women's Retreat at Camp One Way, but I did the second time. It's a place to get to know the women of Central Christian Church better, grow closer to your friends and reflect on your life as a Christian woman. It's also a great place to share some wonderful food, girl talk and fun. I hope you will join me at the third Women's Retreat."* Registration forms are now available for our next Women's Retreat, February 23-24, 2007. Pick up a brochure in the Friendship Center this Sunday and make plans to join us. The deadline for registration is February 4th.

Register Now for the March Mission trip to New Orleans!

Now is the time to get your registration form and deposit turned in for the Mission trip, March 10-18, to New Orleans. Final plans need to be made and we need to know of your interest and commitment. Registration and information packs are in the Friendship Center. 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 scholarships are available. Don't miss out on this life-changing experience – sign up now!

Super Subs 2007

The Youth will be receiving orders for Super Bowl Subs beginning this Sunday, January 21st. Our foot-long subs will sell for \$10 each on white or wheat bread with three meat choices and choice of toppings. Six-inch subs will be available for \$5. Order forms will be in the worship bulletin for the next two weeks with delivery of our famous Subs on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th. This annual youth fundraiser provides support for scholarships for programs such as Summer Mission Trip and activities.





Central Youth

Sunday, January 21st
Youth Group
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Youth Grades 6-12 will meet at The Point. Information on upcoming events/registration forms will be available. And, there will be food!

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!

Check out the New CCC FORUM on the web at <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 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!

Charles's Column

This is the ninety-ninth Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25), which was initiated in 1908 by the Reverend Paul Wattson, co-founder of the Society of the Atonement. (www.geii.org) This Sunday, we will join this world-wide observance and worship God to pray for the unity of Christ's Church on earth.

Perhaps the question comes to your mind, "Why should we pray for Christian unity when most of the people I know are well satisfied in our own denominational affiliations and don't really want to be any closer than we already are to other Christians?"

The answer comes first from Jesus himself who prayed so fervently at the Last Supper on the last night of his life among us: "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (Gospel of John 17:20-21)

The perennial problem with proclaiming to the world the good news of the gospel of Christ since the days of Jesus, is that Jesus's followers are divided and do not speak to the world with one voice. We are competitors and even rivals and opponents of other Christians, and seeing our divisions, the world out there and the folks across the street don't know whom to believe—the Catholics, the Orthodox, the Baptists, the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Episcopalians, the Lutherans, the Evangelicals, the Pentecostals, the Disciples, the United Church of Christ, or whom? Who is right? Who has the truth faith? Who really represents Jesus? How can people choose correctly?

So the first reason to pray for Christian unity is that Jesus prayed for it, and if we want to share the mind and spirit of Jesus, then we simply must pray that Christians may be one—"so that the world may believe."

The second reason comes from our identity as Disciples of Christ, a movement for Christian unity which began in the early nineteenth century up and down the frontier of America. Those who founded our church believed that in this new world, in this new nation, we ought to be able to do what Asian, African, and European Christianity had failed to do. We ought to be able to start fresh and to unite all Christians in the simple faith of the New Testament. If Jesus is one, then we followers of Jesus should be one. If we as Disciples are not praying for the unity of Christians and working for the unity of Christians, then we have no reason to exist, no reason to operate as yet one more division of a divided church in the world.

Christian unity is our reason for being as a church. Christian unity is our calling as a people. Christian unity is our "polar star," by which we are to chart our course as a church, according to Disciples founder Barton Stone. Please join me this Sunday as we gather to worship God and pray for Christian unity.

Charles Watkins

Note of Thanks Received

I want to thank my church family, my relatives, and friends for the great recognition of my 90th birthday. I appreciate all of the attention, cards and calls. A huge thank you to the ladies that put it all together. I certainly feel loved.

Ruby Agnew

News From the Pews.....

Congratulations to **Joel & Kerrie Chapman** of Bartonville, IL on the January 11th birth of their son, **Bryce Anthony**. Bryce is also welcomed home by his big brother, **Colton** and proud grandparents, **Betty & Larry Chapman**.....and to **Arik & Laura Brooks**, of Belleville, following the January 12th birth of their daughters, **Lindsey Grace & Ashley Nicole**. They are also welcomed to the family by grandparents **Randy & Shirley Brooks** and proud **Aunt Jessica**. Shirley & Randy would also like to thank everyone for the prayers and concerns during the past few months.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Robert Isom** and family following the January 11th death of his wife, **Virginia Isom**.

New CCC FORUM Online

A new online forum is available at <http://cccdisciples.informe.com> or by clicking on the link on the church's web site www.cccd-disciples.org. The forum is a web-based discussion and information-sharing place where you may connect with Central friends, discuss faith related issues, share prayer requests, find out about upcoming events, etc. Users must register by creating a username and password and entering an email address (you will NOT receive SPAM from the forum). Youth may also register and those thirteen and under will need a signed parental permission form provided by the forum before their username will be activated. The forum is monitored regularly for any inappropriate postings. Registered users may post topics, replies to other posts, participate in polls and join forum groups. Check out the site, register and join the discussions and sharing today. Contact **Pastor Robert** if you have questions or encounter any problems. Enjoy!

Just Flicks Film Series Promotes Peace and Justice

Here's what a reviewer says about the film *Whale Rider*: "It is a simple story very well told, with a great performance by child actress Keisha Castle-Hughes. This girl has such a strong magnetism...that one tends to forget the rest of the other characters."

You can see this film this Sunday, January 21 in the Great Hall. A light dessert will be served at 6 p.m. immediately before the film. Following the movie, our own **Karen Baird** will lead a discussion.

The Just Flicks film series is jointly sponsored by our Peace and Justice Task Force and the Peacemaking Committee of First Presbyterian Church.

Evangelism Seeds

This is what one person has to say about why they share their faith ... "I love the feeling of working with the Spirit that I get when I pray for someone. Sometimes later there's an opportunity to share with them about God. These openings feel miraculous. And if that person comes to faith in Christ from that conversation, it's the most amazing feeling. You know you've helped God change someone's life forever. And the thing is, it's really just being open to God, You pray and wait and then the Spirit does the work." (from *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese)



Sunday, January 21, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Men's Chorus
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Cindy Soebbing
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
4:30-Youth Group, The Point
6:00-Dessert & DVD, Great Hall

Monday (22)

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

Tuesday (23)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
5:00-CADV, Disciple Room
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room
7:00-Dorcas, 207

Wednesday (24)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-4:00-Banner Committee, 207
5:30-*Serving From the Heart* Study,
Disciple Room
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 280
6:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

Thursday (25)

10:00-Alanon, 212
5:30-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Room
6:15-Baby Talk Family Fun Night,
Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (26)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
10:30-Dove Program, Disciple Room

Counting On You

January 14

Worship Attendance 241
Sunday School Attendance 64

Serving Schedule—January 21, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Carol Graham, Janet Lyman

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 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 - Harold & Bess King, Bob & Chloe Hoaglin
10:45 - Bruce & Carol Stoddard, Ron & Jan Dobbs

Parish Nurse: Cindy Soebbing

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Dennis & Debbie Downey

Children's Worship: Christine Lyman-Harm

Acolytes:

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter
10:45 - Jim Hinze

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 - Keith Backes
10:45 service only - Karen Baird

January 24 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

Hosts:

Jan. 22 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis
Jan. 23 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Jan. 24 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew
Jan. 25 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Jan. 26 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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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