



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, March 7, 2007

No. 10

Spring Forward!

Illinois will move to Daylight Savings Time this Sunday morning at 2 a.m. Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night so that you don't miss worship on Sunday morning.



SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
What God is Looking For

Text: Luke 13:1-9
Charles Watkins

Bill Moutray in Concert II

Last year Bill Moutray's concert at Central was so enthusiastically received that Bill has been inspired to sing for all his fans again this year on April 1, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This concert will feature medlies of Broadway hits alongside religious favorites. This concert is free and open to everyone, but you may need to get your friends here early to get a good seat.

Pastors' Class for Baptism & Church Membership

The 2007 Pastors' Class for Baptism and Church Membership, for youth 6th grade and up, will meet in March. Three two-hour sessions have been scheduled:

10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, March 10th – *The Word of Life*

3:00-5 p.m. on Sunday, March 18th – *Who Are the Disciples of Christ?*

10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, March 31st – *Living Our Faith*

The class taught by our pastors will be held in Room 290 (Nichols Education Wing). Baptisms for those participating will be scheduled for Easter Sunday. If you have not received information in the mail and you are interested in participating, contact **Pastor Robert**, 428-4336 or rbushey@cccdisciples.org as soon as possible.

YWCA School-age Care at Central

The YWCA of Decatur & Macon County School-age Care After-school program will be moving one of their current sites to Central beginning on Monday, March 12th. The program is staffed by the YWCA and serves children grades kindergarten through sixth grade from four local elementary schools. Thanks to a generous donation of used computers, the YWCA program and our Christian Education programs will be able to take advantage of a mini-computer lab that is being set-up in the Nichols Education Wing. Volunteers are welcome to help with the after-school program, especially with homework assistance, crafts, and computer assistance. If you would like to volunteer anytime between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday please, contact **Pastor Robert**.

Habitat for Humanity 6th Annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser!

All are invited to join Habitat for Humanity at its 6th annual Chicken Dinner on Sunday, March 25th at the Masonic Temple, 224 W. William Street. Tickets may be purchased this Sunday in the Friendship Center. Each \$7 ticket will provide ½ grilled chicken, potato salad, baked beans, a roll and drink. The meals will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and carryout is available. Buy your ticket this week to reserve a great meal and help Habitat as they continue to work to eliminate sub-standard housing in Decatur and Macon County!

Benefit Concert

Westminster Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity on March 11, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at Westminster featuring contemporary Christian vocalist **Mark Harris**. All proceeds from the concert go to the local affiliate of Habitat. Tickets are \$10 each. Call Westminster Presbyterian 428-6603.

Elderberries to Meet March 14th!

It'll be the luck o' the Irish to you when you celebrate an early St. Patrick's Day with your Central friends! Elderberries, for those at least 55 years young, will gather at noon on March 14th, for a wonderful meal, program and delightful fellowship together. The menu this month includes roast beef with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, rolls and dessert. The cost of the meal is just \$4. Following the meal, **Deonne Orvis** and some of her violin students will be with us for a delightful program of music. 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. 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 leftover than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, March 12th, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

Central Youth

Sunday, March 11th
5-8 p.m.

Central Youth Grades 6-12

Mark Harris Concert

Contemporary Christian

Pop Artist

Westminster Presbyterian
Church

\$5 for Central Youth

Remember to check out
the **CCC FORUM**
for Coming Events &
Announcements

Summer Camp

Genesis Camp Grades 2-3

June 4-6

Koinonia Camp Grades 3-8

June 25-June 30

ADDaM Camp Grades 8-12

June 24-July 2

Shalom Camp Grades 9-12

June 11-16

Grades listed reflect
Current School Year.

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!

Diaconate Thanks/Reminder

Thank you to those who have sent in your diaconate dues. Your \$5 contribution (per deacon) helps support the reception and luncheon provided for our Senior Members of Central. The luncheon this year will be Saturday, April 14. Please mail your dues (checks made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**.

Charles's Column

Is there anything more un-American than self-denial? Our culture values going for the gold ring, personal success, and material wealth. The happy person in our imagination is the person who is denied nothing, the one who has it all, the one who not only gets what she wants but gets it right now. The World War II generation who saved the world and built so much that we value just shakes its head and despairs over grandchildren who have to start at the top, who must have right now everything that previous generations had to strive and struggle for, and who don't really need to wait because they get four or five new credit cards in the mail every week! The statistics on personal credit card debt makes old fogies of a certain age break out in a cold sweat. Aversion to debt is one of the grand distinctions between one generation and another.

So when the church enters Lent and encourages self-denial as a spiritual discipline to help us grow more faithful to Christ, it has a really difficult task of persuasion. At Christmas we manage to wed the celebration of the Savior's birth to the materialistic orgy of commercialism. But Lent is lots harder for American Christians. When we turn toward the cross and pray to One who laid down his life for the sake of human salvation, we have to face how different our religious values are from our cultural values.

American Christians are attempting to follow Jesus who told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." There is no possible way to follow that instruction and still feel comfortable with the cultural values of our time. Suddenly we see that the values Jesus preached are as distant from the values of our day as they were distant from the values of Imperial Rome and its occupying forces in the Holy Land.

The cliché about giving up something for Lent is just a hint at the true significance of this holy season. It's not really about giving up chocolate, it is about denying yourself. It is about suppressing your own desire for more and more for the sake of those who have nearly nothing. It is about seeing ourselves not as citizens of a particular nation or even a particular century but as people who are preparing themselves to be citizens of the Kingdom of God.

You and I, because of our wealth, have such a great challenge during Lent to be true to our faith and to become serious followers of Jesus Christ, denying ourselves and taking up our cross of sacrifice for the sake of a desperately hurting world. I am struggling. I find it difficult. May God bless you and strengthen you in your struggle throughout these forty days of Lent.

Charles Watkins

Register Now for the Regional Women's Gathering

"Come to the Table" is the theme as Disciple women from around the region join together for a day of retreat on Saturday, March 31st at Eureka College. You will have a chance to relax, fellowship and network with other women as we consider the many people who gather around the one common table of our Lord. Your \$25 registration fee and form is due to the Regional office by March 19th. We can carpool or possibly take the church van if enough are interested. Registration forms are available in the Friendship Center or speak with **Pastor Gretchen** for more information.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bob & Beverly Tanzyus** following the February 27th death of his brother, *Edward George "Tony" Tanzyus* of Mt. Zion.

Notes of Thanks Received

Thank you to our beloved ministers and all my Christian family for all the calls, cards and prayers. I ask you now to pray that the bone graft heals properly.

God bless all of you, **Louise Boline**

Dear Friends at Central,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and visits during Paul's illness. They all helped so very much. God bless all of you. Everything you all did blessed us very much.

Rosie Doore

Larry & Betty Harris would like to thank Central Christian Church and the ministers for their caring and support given my mother, *Edith Fuqua*, who passed away recently.

Now Showing at Just Flicks: Iron-Jawed Angels

Just Flicks, the Peace and Justice film series, continues on Sunday, March 11 with a showing of *Iron-Jawed Angels* in our Great Hall. A light dessert will be served at 6 p.m. before the film. Mark Sorensen will introduce the film and lead a brief discussion afterwards. The series is jointly sponsored by our Peace and Justice Task Force and the Peacemaking Committee of First Presbyterian Church.

Mission Group to Leave Saturday for New Orleans!

This Saturday, four Central members will join four members of Prairie Avenue and Blue Mound Christian Churches on our first mission delegation to New Orleans. During their week of mission work, they will be helping to rebuild Westside Christian Church and the homes of individuals. You may join us in sending them off with a circle of prayer at 8:30 a.m. this Saturday in the west parking lot. We look forward to hearing of their adventures when they return. Please keep them in your prayers, as well, during their time away. Your gifts to Week of Compassion help to fund groups like ours and others that are helping in the rebuilding following the devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Pictured left-to-right are: **Don Tankersley, Ed Adams, Brent Rice, Joy Witt, Ken Kersey, Nancy Gwinn, and Shirley Swarthout and Janet Lyman** (seated).



Sunday, March 11, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Octet; Janice Mitchell,
Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
6:00-Peace & Justice DVD, Great Hall

Monday (12)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Tuesday (13)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:00-CADV, Disciple Room
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290
6:30-Young Adults, Bushey house
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

Wednesday (14)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
12:00-Elderberries, Great Hall
1:00-4:00-Banner Committee, 207
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
1:30-Low Vision Support, Disciple Rm.
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Assessment Team, Parlor
5:30-*Serving From the Heart* Study,
Disciple Room

Thursday (15)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:45-Chancel Bells
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:15-Baby Talk Family Fun Night,
Great Hall
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (16)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
6:00-Habitat Dinner Meeting, Great Hall

Serving Schedule—March 11, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Claudia Quigg, Larry Chapman

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Max Sperry
Jarrett Bednar
Mike Holbrook
Shelby Larrick
Charlie Ropp
Jeannie Backes
Louise Boline
Mary Boyle
Shirley Brooks
Jon French

Elders

Jan Baird
Carol Graham
Mary Jane Linton
Julie Martin
Bruce Campbell
Larry Otis
Janet Lyman
Tom Spry
Barbara Tyler
Mike Holbrook
Alternate: Larry Chapman

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, 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, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Kim Downey, Ryan Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey

10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:15 - Roe Skidmore, Frances Heiserman, David & Connie Shields

10:45 - Duane & Lynn Potter, Jon & Jane French

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Jim, Cathy & Rachel Ash

Children's Worship: Teri Bushey

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Becky & John Flanders, Pamela Bednar, David Flanders, Joan Stewart

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

March 14 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

Hosts:

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

Mar. 13 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Mar. 14 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Mar. 15 9:00-12:30 - Dean Gray
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Mar. 16 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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