



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, March 14, 2007

No. 11



Bill Moutray Concert II

Bill Moutray will be in concert on April 1 at 5:30 p.m. in Central's sanctuary, presenting vocal medleys of Broadway hits, popular favorites and religious selections in a diverse program with universal appeal. The concert is free and open to all. So many people enjoyed Bill's last concert that you may want to invite some additional friends to join you.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
You Are There!

Text: Luke 15:25-32
Charles Watkins

FunTimers, Mark Your Calendars!

One week remains for FunTimers to sign up to attend our day trip to The Little Theater on the Square in Sullivan on Friday, March 23rd. We will leave from the church at 11:30 and enjoy lunch at the Old School Market in Sullivan before taking our seats to enjoy a delightful afternoon of Rodgers and Hammerstein classics in "Some Enchanted Evening". Enjoy over 46 of the best loved songs from *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific* and *State Fair*. Tickets are \$23 each and you must register and pay in advance. A sign-up sheet is in the Friendship Center or you may call the church office at 428-4336. We should arrive back in Decatur around 5 p.m.

Chancel Choir Summer Tour

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir on their tour this summer. You may wish to join as a singer or as a non-singer. The tour will begin on Saturday June 9 and conclude on Sunday June 17. We will make stops at Woodhaven in Columbia, MO.; Country Club Christian Church, Kansas City; Augusta Christian Church; First Christian Church, Colorado Springs; Aspen Chapel; Evergreen Retreat Center and Evergreen Christian Church just outside of Denver; and Altoona Christian Church, Altoona, IA. There will be time for sightseeing, entertainment, a work project and lots of time on the bus for good conversation and fun. If you are interested please contact the tour committee members **Shirley Swarthout, Karen Driver, Connie Bordner, Bob Smith and John Baird or Don Martin.**

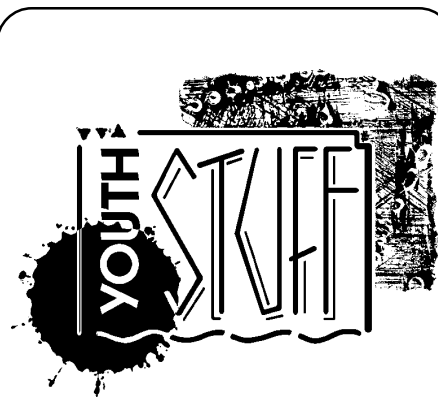
Mission Trip Update!

Last week, on a chilly pre-spring Saturday morning, more than 30 people gathered to send off our mission crew for a week of work in New Orleans. During their time at Westside Christian Church, they will work at the church and in individual homes, helping to rebuild following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Please keep them in your prayers throughout the week and as they make the journey home this weekend. Your gifts to Week of Compassion help to fund groups like this, and others, that are helping in the five-year rebuilding initiative. Check our website at www.cccdisciples.org for more photos and stories of their time away.



Evangelism Seeds

"Many Christians feel guilty about not doing much evangelism. The worst problem with guilt is that it can shut down clear thinking. It can also stop action!" From *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* by Martha Grace Reese



Central Youth

Sunday, March 18th
4:00-5:30 p.m.

Central Youth Grades 6-12
\$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!

Charles's Column

How is Lent going for you? My guess is that no one else has asked you that question. We rejoice with each other that we have apparently made it through this brutal winter. We're so glad at the prospect of spring that we get excited on any partly sunny day. We listen so hard for song birds each morning, it is as if we had gone deaf through the long darkness. And then with the premature arrival of daylight-saving time, suddenly we are thrust back into those bleak days of driving to work in the dark of December, only now there are no Christmas lights to cheer us along the way.

So how is Lent going for you? What new discipline are you following to draw closer to God, to examine your spiritual health, to turn your life toward greater obedience and faithfulness, to repent and receive gracious forgiveness for what gnaws at you with guilty regret? Lent is now half over. But half remains, and if you have not taken advantage of all that this holy season offers you, it's not too late to begin.

Daily devotional booklets are still available for you in the narthex, and each meditation is so short, you can catch up in no time. The sanctuary is still open for prayer every day of the week, and the temperature is pretty pleasant in there these days. And God is still watching for you and waiting and hoping that you will want to have more regular conversation, more frequent communion, and deeper commitment.

The glad, exultant celebration of Easter draws closer—the palm branches are ordered and the lilies will soon be for sale in the Friendship Center. The pastors' class is underway for some truly terrific youth whom I admire and appreciate. The church moves forward toward its highest holy day for the year.

But it is unfortunate if we lose focus on Lent too soon. This is the season for introspection, reflection, self-examination, true repentance, and the opportunity to amend our lives and move toward becoming that people that God wants us to be.

I hope your Lent is going well and that each day you find yourself a little closer to God's own Holy Spirit.

Charles Watkins

Central Christian Preschool Partnering with Baby Talk

Central's 42 year preschool ministry of outreach to our community is planning to expand through a collaborative effort with Baby Talk's Pre-Kindergarten program for the 2007-2008 school year. After months of research and conversation between **Shelly Messmore**, CCC Preschool Director and **Cindy Bardeleben**, Baby Talk Pre-K Director, the Preschool Advisory Board recently approved a proposal to offer collaborative morning and afternoon Pre-K classes following the Illinois State Board of Education Preschool for All guidelines in addition to our current tuition based classes this September. The classes of twenty children ages 3 and 4 yrs. old will meet five days a week and be taught by a certified teacher with a bachelor degree in early childhood education. The classes will be open to families who meet the state guidelines which are based on income and/or education needs. The next step for the collaborative agreement is to apply for the state grant and begin the processes of registration and screening for incoming students. Parents who qualify for the ISBE class will continue to have the choice of placing their child in the tuition based program.

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **John Scott** for his participation in the Millikin University Choir performances at the American Choral Directors Association Convention in Miami, Florida. University Choir was one of more than forty performing groups from around the world to present 30 minute concerts for some five thousand attendees.

Habitat for Humanity 6th Annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser!

All are invited to join Habitat for Humanity at it's 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 also 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!

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.

Weekly Newspaper Ad Needs Support

Each week, Central purchases advertising space in the Saturday edition of the Herald & Review in the Worship Guide section. The simple ad includes our address (mail and web), our affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our worship times and often an announcement about an upcoming event. The Public Relations Department sponsors the ad as part of their annual advertising budget and pays for ads to run as many Saturdays as possible. The ad costs about \$50 per week. You are invited to help sponsor our weekly appearance in the newspaper by giving to our Public Relations Fund. Twenty weekly sponsorships would ensure that Central is included in the worship guide every remaining weekend in 2007.

Involvement in Education Produces Fruits

Central volunteers in our One Church One School ministry with Hope Academy helped plan and carry out a successful ISAT Preparation Family Night last week. Ninety-two children and parents attended the game-show like event with a chili supper which was planned in part by **Shirley Swarouth** who serves as a community member of the school's Community Involvement Cadre. Shirley was assisted by Central volunteers **Neil Baird**, **Donna Strong**, **Mary Jane Oliver**, **Steve Swarouth**, and **Matthew Swarouth**.

This week, March 12-16th, **Neil Baird** is joined at Hope Academy by Central volunteers **Larry Pepper**, **Dean & Sue Simcox**, **Christine Lyman-Harm**, and Prairie Avenue CC volunteer **Ray Maddox** as they serve as ISAT Proctors for students with special accommodations for the testing. The proctors assist the test administrators and have been trained by the school principal.

If you are interested in being a part of Central's OCOS ministry at Hope Academy, please contact **Pastor Robert**.



Sunday, March 18, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Daniel Hinze,

Saxophone; Janice Mitchell, Piano

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Lucy Acheson

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

11:15-Children's Worship, 250

3:00-5:00-Pastors' Class, 290

Monday (19)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280

Tuesday (20)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

11:30-Ecumenical Clergy, Disciple Rm.

1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280

5:30-Stewardship Dept., Disciple Room

5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290

6:30-Young Adults, Bushey house

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

Wednesday (21)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280

12:00-Central Singers

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

1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280

Thursday (22)

10:00-Alanon, 212

1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280

5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

5:45-Chancel Bells

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (23)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

11:30-Fun Timers to Sullivan Little

Theater

1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280

Saturday (24)

8:00-4:00-Emmaus Team, Great Hall &

Disciple Room

Counting On You

March 11

Worship Attendance 305

Sunday School Attendance 65

Serving Schedule—March 18, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Pepper, Rebecca Johnston

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., 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 - Kevin Otis, Capt., 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, Donna Strong

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 - Dennis & Debbie Downey, Morris & Willie Birkhead
10:45 - Larry & Betty Chapman, Jim, Myra & Daniel Hinze

Parish Nurse: Lucy Acheson

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Dean & Sue Simcox

Children's Worship: Christine Lyman-Harm

Acolytes:

10:45 - Daniel Hinze

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash
10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot
10:45 service only - Richard Ward

March 21 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

Hosts:

Mar. 19 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams
12:30-4:00 - Dee Hill
Mar. 20 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Mar. 21 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
Mar. 22 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon
Mar. 23 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
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

In the Hospital...

Decatur Memorial: Mary Ann Case

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