



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, March 21, 2007

No. 12

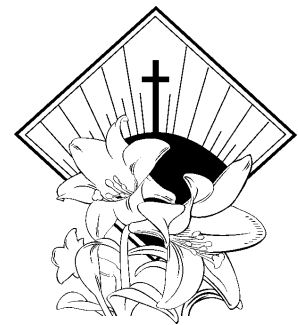
Bill Moutray Concert II on April 1

The vocal concert at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 1, featuring Bill Moutray will include a wide variety of selections from spiritual songs to Broadway hits and composers from Irving Berlin to Barry Manilow. The program is designed to delight all listeners: there is something for everyone. Last year the sanctuary was filled for Bill's concert, so make your plans to arrive with your friends early so that you can get good seats.



SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Forgetting What Lies Behind

Text: Philippians 3:4b-14
Charles Watkins



Easter Lilies Available

This Sunday in the Friendship Center the Worship Department will give you the opportunity to sign up to place an Easter lily to honor the life of a friend or family member in the sanctuary on Easter morning, April 8. Cost of each lily ordered through the church is \$13 and should be paid at the time of sign-up.



Yves Henry to Perform at Central

French concert artist Yves Henry will play the sanctuary Steinway at Central Christian Church on Monday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. The first half of the concert will include various works of Chopin, and the second half will be devoted to French composers. Mr. Henry has played recitals and performed with orchestras around the world. He has made both solo and chamber music recordings including several world firsts. Today most of

his recitals are devoted to romantic music. This concert is sponsored in part by the Lyle and Minnie Campbell Memorial Fund at Central.

Welcome New Members



Christy & Dave Hanson (pictured with their daughter, Haley) joined Central on March 18.



Mike & Coleen Myers became members of Central by Transfer of Membership on March 18.

Evangelism Seeds

"If faith and church have changed your life, you'll want others to understand that there is no sin, no resentment, no bitterness, no wound, no fear, no illness, no loneliness that Christ cannot forgive, dissolve, heal, cure, fill. You'll want everyone to know that the God of infinity is there to lead them by the hand into forever. Nothing is more real than this good news!" From Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese

Central Youth

TMNT

Sunday, March 25th
Central Youth
Grades 3-12

We will meet at Hickory Point Cinemas for the 3 p.m. matinee showing of Teen-age Mutant Ninja Turtles and then stop for Pizza at Monicals (North) on the way back.

\$7.00 per person for movie & pizza. Youth may be picked up at Monicals.

Sunday, April 1st
April Fools Party
3-5:00 p.m.

Wear your wackiest outfit (be creative and make sure U can get messy if necessary), Bring a towel and your sense of humor, too! Be ready for fun!

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!

Assessment Team Report I

Following the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2006, in which an unmanageably large financial deficit was projected for 2007, threatening current staff and program levels, the president of Central Christian Church appointed an Assessment Team to monitor the church's financial condition and progress in early 2007 and make recommendations on staff and program levels. Members of the team include the president of the congregation, the three vice-presidents over program areas, the chair of the Personnel Department, the chair of the Stewardship Department, the chair of the Board of Elders, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the church treasurer and the senior pastor.

After the congregational meeting a number of families and individuals revised their giving plans upward and some new giving cards were received. Meeting on March 14, 2007 the Assessment Team reports the following findings.

1. Extraordinary giving during December 2006 enabled the congregation to end the year with a surplus in the General Operating Fund so that no Board of Trustee funds were needed to balance the budget. The last time that Central ended a year with a balance on hand in the operating fund was 1997.

2. The year-end operating deficit projected in the current 2007 budget is now \$52,000 less than the deficit approved by vote of the congregation on December 3, thanks to the generous and positive response by members of Central.

3. During the first five years of the twenty-first century, Central never ended a single month with a positive balance in the General Operating Fund. The past three months (December, January, and February) each ended with a positive balance in the General Operating Fund.

4. At the end of the first two months of 2007 member giving was 97.16% of the amount anticipated in the budget and total receipts were 100.36% of the amount anticipated in the budget.

5. Central received more new members in 2006 than in the previous two years combined.

The Assessment Team has drawn the following conclusions:

1. We commend the strong and generous support that members are currently giving, and urgently encourage you to continue.

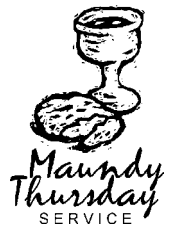
2. We do not anticipate having to reduce staff or program in 2007 if the current excellent trends continue.

3. We rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our congregation through its many and varied ministries.

4. We thank each one who has stepped forward to give sacrificially in support of the ministry of Jesus Christ through this congregation.

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary you will have an opportunity to worship as we observe Maundy Thursday. Readers will present poetry and prayers to guide your thoughts. Scripture lessons will retell the story of Christ's last days. All this will be supported by music from organ prelude to congregational singing and anthems by the Chancel Choir. There will also be solos and instrumental music to help you feel the emotions of the events of Holy Week. This service is the same one that we presented last year when those who attended were deeply moved. Please come and bring a friend to enrich your spirits and prepare for the rising of the sun/Son on Easter Sunday.



News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Barbara Tyler** following the March 19th death of her aunt, *Josephine Parker*.

Mission Trip Group Returns!

Our missionaries to New Orleans returned Sunday afternoon with stories of a wonderful week of mission work, fellowship, worship, travel, new friends, and changed lives. During the week, the group primarily worked on rebuilding Westside Christian Church (pictured) where the congregation began worshipping again in their sanctuary just last week. You can see more pictures and read their stories on our website at www.cccdisciples.org. If their experiences inspire you, remember we have another group planning to go to Slidell, Louisiana, leaving June 23rd. Information and registration forms are available in the Friendship Center.



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**.

Sponsor our Weekly Worship Guide Ad

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.

Central Christian Preschool Registering for 2007-2008

Central's 42 year preschool is currently registering students for the 2007-2008 school year. Classes for 2 year olds and a parent, 3 year olds, 4 year olds and pre-kindergarten students will be available. In addition to our tuition based classes, a new five half-days per week pre-kindergarten class will be available for students based on educational needs and income requirements. For more information or to set up an appointment to register your child contact **Shelly Messmore**, Director at 428-4336.



Sunday, March 25, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Chris Thomas, Baritone; Brenda Clark, Piano
8:15 Anthem-Central Singers; Marilyn Ward, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Brenda Clark, Piano
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse, Cindy Soebbing
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
12:00-Friends of Central, Great Hall

Monday (26)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
6:30-C.E. Steering Committee, 280

Tuesday (27)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290
6:30-Young Adults, Bushey house
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room
7:00-Dorcas, home of Mickie Wilmot

Wednesday (28)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-4:00-Banner Committee, 207
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290
6:30-8:00-Broadway Rehearsal

Thursday (29)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
5:45-Chancel Bells
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (30)

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

Saturday (31)

10:00-12:00-Pastors' Class, 290

Counting On You

March 18

Worship Attendance 336
Sunday School Attendance 83

Serving Schedule—March 25, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Bob Smith, Wayne Honeycutt

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Julie Martin

Decatur Memorial: Lois Whitaker

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 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 - Darla & Norm Lienemann, Brenda & Don Tankersley

10:45 - Jean & Judson Pease, Larry & Sally Thicksten

Children's Worship:

 Katie Powers

Parish Nurse:

 Cindy Soebbing

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

March 28 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

Hosts:

Mar. 26 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Mar. 27 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders

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

Mar. 28 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Mar. 29 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore

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

Mar. 30 9:00-12:30 - Chris Fagin

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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In the Hospital...

St. Mary's Hospital: Helen Chamblin, Lena Long

Decatur Memorial: Doris Israel, Lilabelle Traylor



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