



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, March 28, 2007

No. 13

Bill Moutray Concert II

This Sunday **Bill Moutray** will be in concert 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 early so that you can get good seats.



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 together. Readers will present poetry and prayers to guide your thoughts. We will share communion as we commemorate the Last Supper. Scripture lessons will retell the story of the journey of Jesus from the upper room, through Gethsemane and Pilate's court to the cross on Calvary. 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 as we presented last year. Many who attended expressed that they were deeply moved. Please come and bring a friend to enrich your spirit and prepare for the rising of the sun/Son on Easter Sunday.



French Pianist Yves Henry to Perform at Central

Dazzling French concert pianist **Yves Henry** will appear in the sanctuary of Central Christian Church on the Steinway B grand piano at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 9. Monsieur Henry will devote the first half of his program to major works of Chopin for whose music he is a renowned interpreter. The second half of his program will include works of composers from

his native France. He is a specialist in the French Romantic repertoire. This concert is free and open to the public, and is sponsored in part by the Lyle and Minnie Campbell Memorial Fund at Central.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2007

Palm Sunday

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Stones Would Shout

Text: Luke 19:28-40

Charles Watkins

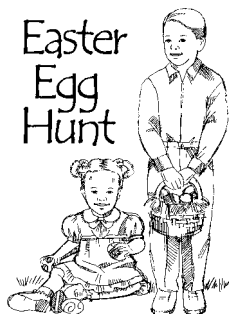
Get Your Palm, Reserve Your Lily Sunday

This Sunday the Worship Department chaired by **Carol Graham** will provide you a palm branch to wave in worship to glorify Jesus Christ and carry home as a reminder. You will also have the opportunity to order an Easter Lily to honor the life or memory of a friend or family member for \$13 per potted plant which you can take home following the April 8 late service on Easter morning.

Easter Sunday Fun!

The Christian Education Department will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 3-10 yrs. on Sunday, April 8th on the South Lawn. Children are invited to attend their Sunday School class at 9:30 a.m. and classes will be dismissed for the hunt at 9:45 a.m. Bags for egg collection will be provided. This

year, some of the eggs will contain special prizes! Watch for hints on the prizes this Sunday! The Disciples Class will be hosting an extended Coffee Fellowship during the Sunday School hour as well. Plan to be a part of our Easter Celebration!





Central Youth

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

Youth Grades 3-5 & 6-12

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!

Easter Sunday, April 8th
Easter Egg Hunt for all Children
on the South Lawn at 9:30 a.m.
Central Youth will NOT meet.

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

Two academic fellows of the notorious and much maligned *Jesus Seminar*, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, have released this year in paperback a major study entitled *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week* (HarperSan-Francisco). It is on my long list of "must read books" this year.

What caught my eye in the current issue of *The Christian Century* is their discussion of Palm Sunday. How many sermons have you heard that deplore the Jerusalem crowd for hailing Jesus with palms and spread garments in a triumphant parade into the Holy City on Sunday and then shouting "Crucify Him," four days later? Guess what! These were not the same crowds.

The careful scholarship of Dr. Borg and Dr. Crossan have clarified this misunderstanding, among others. These eminent scholars of the Bible contend that the whole week from Palm Sunday on is not as well understood as it could be should be among Christians. Here is a little sample of their intriguing findings: "People are encouraged to accept the widespread notion that Jesus was rejected by his own people—that "the Jews" crucified him. The authorities are seen as representatives of the Jewish people. There is little or no awareness that throughout Jesus's final week "the crowd" is with Jesus, and indeed prevents the Roman authorities from taking action. It is a different and much smaller crowd that calls for his crucifixion on Good Friday—that crowd is gathered in Pilate's courtyard, and ordinary people had no access to it. Heard in isolation, the Good Friday texts have been a major factor in the long and often brutal history of Christian anti-Semitism."

The findings of these scholars are helping me as I prepare my sermon for Palm Sunday. But even more significant is their careful biblical analysis of the popular theology of the atonement: "People are encouraged to believe that the primary purpose of Jesus's death was to die for the sins of the world by offering his life as a substitutionary atonement. For many Christians this is the real meaning of Good Friday. For some, seeing Jesus's death as a substitutionary sacrifice is a litmus test of Christian orthodoxy. It also leads to the notion that his death had to happen, that it was part of God's plan for salvation—indeed, required by God." But that is not the God that I know and preach about weekly.

The latest popular proponent for this theory was Mel Gibson's movie. But the most spirited opponent of this idea that I know about was Barton W. Stone, one of the four most influential 19th Century founding fathers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I side with Barton Stone and two centuries of Disciples preachers who insist there is another way to understand Holy Week and Good Friday in particular. The crucifixion of Jesus was not really God's idea! Open and free acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior was God's idea. But we rebellious and self-willed human beings had a different and much more deadly idea. I am hoping you will join me in worship on Palm Sunday to think more about this!

Charles Watkins

Evangelism Seeds

"We need to know how to talk about Jesus from our own lives, out of our real feelings of faith and doubt and in real life words!"

From Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Lori & Tom Doxsie** and family following the death of Lori's father, *Edwin A. Cummings* on March 25th.....and to the family of *Marie Scott*, former member of Central, who died March 21st at McKinley Court Nursing Home.

Note of Thanks Received

We sincerely appreciate the prayers, cards and calls from friends and staff of Central during the time of Bob's surgery, and now in the recuperation period.

We are so thankful to be a member of such a caring congregation and church.

Bob & Billie Harmon

Strengthening Your Marriage Workshop

"It's all about give and take." Have you ever heard that said when someone is asked what it takes for a couple to have a successful marriage? Whether you are planning to be married, already are, or have been forever, healthy communication skills are important for a strong relationship. At every stage of couple relationships, the ability to share our wants and needs with our partner and the ability to listen so as to understand our partner's wants and needs are keys to satisfaction and enjoyment. How satisfied are you with the level of communication in your relationship? Would you like to strengthen your communication skills?

You are invited to attend two workshops designed to help you develop your talking and listening skills on **Saturdays, April 21st and May 5th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Using the Couple Communication curriculum, **Pastor Robert** and **Teri Bushey** will lead the multi-media, interactive workshops. The fee for the workshop is \$50, which is waved if you have been married at Central in the past 10 years or plan to be married at Central within the next two years. Lunch is included. Sign up by calling the church office or by emailing Pastor Robert at rbushey@cccdisciples.org by April 15th.

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Your Gifts to
Easter Special Offering
Change Lives

 Disciples Mission Fund
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Counting On You

March 25

Worship Attendance 310

Sunday School Attendance 69



Sunday, April 1, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Chancel Bells

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Bells, Chancel
Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse, Liz Campbell

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

3:00-5:00-Youth Group, Great Hall

5:30-**Bill Moutray Concert**, Sanctuary
Reception Following, Friendship Ctr.

Monday (2)

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

8:45-1:00-Y School Day Out, 260, 280

8:45-6:00-Y School Out, 260 & 280

6:30-C.A.C.S. Dept., Disciple Room

Tuesday (3)

8:45-Y School Day Out, 260, 280

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room

8:45-6:00-Y School Out, 260 & 280

5:30-Stephen Ministry Training, 290

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

7:00-Chancel Choir

Wednesday (4)

8:45-1:00-Y School Day Out, 260, 280

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290

12:00-Central Singers

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

8:45-6:00-Y School Out, 260 & 280

Thursday (5)

10:00-Alanon, 212

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207

7:00-**Maundy Thursday Service**

Friday (6)

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

Serving Schedule—April 1, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mary Jane Oliver, Carol Graham

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Bruce Campbell, Claudia Quigg

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 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 - Max & Evelyn Sperry, Dean & Janet Gray

10:45 - Steve & Carrie Funk, Jim & Lois Whitaker

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

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 - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Bruce Williams

April 4 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Janet Gray

Hosts:

Apr. 2 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Apr. 3 9:00-12:30 - Gail Prince
12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford

Apr. 4 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Apr. 5 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Apr. 6 9:00-12:30 - Kathy Pepper
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
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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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