



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, April 11, 2007

No. 15

## Mark Your Calendar for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sarah's Daughter's Banquet

Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sarah's Daughter's Banquet will be Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. You won't want to miss this evening which will be packed with great food and fellowship and wonderful music from the Decatur Chordsmen. The \$6 tickets (\$3 for children ages 2-10) will go on sale later this month. All women and girls (mothers, daughters, grandmas, sisters, aunts, cousins, friends) are invited and encouraged to attend.

## Get Your Tickets This Sunday Morning!

**Broadway Comes to Central on Sunday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m.**, presented by singers from Central and directed by **Janice Mitchell**. The evening will include a program of Broadway music from throughout the decades. Witness your choir members as you have never seen them (if you can recognize them)! Hear them sing like never before.

While you are being entertained you may choose from a variety of gourmet desserts served by the choir during the program and help yourself to beverages. Relax and enjoy a wonderful evening of good music and good treats.

The event is sponsored by the Chancel Choir. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds will go to help with the costs of the Summer Tour.

## Ladies Night Out April 30<sup>th</sup>

Women and friends of Central are invited to join together for Ladies Night Out on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We'll gather at Ruby Tuesday's (4405 E. Route 36) for a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, great food, door prizes and laughter! We will order off the menu and have separate checks. Dinner items average \$10-15 and a 15% gratuity will be added. Bring your grown daughter, mother or friend for a great evening out. You may sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the Friendship Center this Sunday or call the church office so we can confirm our reservation! See you on April 30<sup>th</sup>!

## Strengthening Your Marriage Workshop

Whether you are planning to be married, already are, or have been forever, healthy communication skills are important for a strong relationship. 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 21<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org) by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2007**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

**Alpha and Omega**

Text: Revelation 1:4-8

Charles Watkins

## Bells in Motion to Perform

Bells In Motion will present their spring concert, The Sounds of Bronze at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 29 at Central Christian Church. This concert marks the beginning of their tenth year. Bells in Motion is based in Springfield and is under the direction of their founder, Michael Lamb. In their years of presenting concerts, this group has become one of the premier bell choirs in America. They have toured the United States and Europe.

This concert will include a wide variety of music featuring pops arrangements and original compositions. Pieces will include "Toccata Ritmica", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", and "Stars and Stripes Forever".

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10. Mark your calendar and invite a friend for an afternoon of great music.

## Evangelism Seeds

*How do you define evangelism? Are you helping another person move into relationship with God? Are you helping them move into and become connected with Christian community? If so, then you are doing evangelism and sharing the Gospel!*

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



## Central Youth

**Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
3-5 p.m.

Central Youth Grades 6-12  
Youth will meet in the  
Youth Room.

### Summer Camp

It's Time to Register  
for Summer Activities!  
Information about Camps  
will be mailed to  
Central Youth soon!

**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.

### Music Camp 2007

June 4-8  
Grades 1-6

First Baptist Church & Central  
Christian Church are again  
sponsoring a Music Camp in June.  
Mark your calendars and watch  
for registration details soon!

### Wisconsin Dells Trip

July 8-15

**The Inn at Glacier Canyon**

Youth entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade-  
finishing 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Spend the week with your  
friends from Central!

Indoor/Outdoor Water Parks

Wisconsin DUKW Tours

And MUCH MORE!

Register Today!

## Charles's Column

While the church's celebration of Christmas lasts just twelve days from December 25 to January 6, our celebration of Easter lasts fifty days all the way up to Pentecost in May. By then, we hope, it really will be spring in Decatur! So now we have seven weeks to think about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our own resurrection.

The clearest statement of our situation was made by the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the church at Corinth: "Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."

Here Paul offers clear, logical reasoning which even the most modern or post-modern mind can comprehend clearly. He explains the absolute centrality of Easter faith to the church and to each of us. Without the resurrection of Christ, there is no Christian faith, and there is no Christian church, and there is no eternal home for us and those we love. He links directly and personally the resurrection of Jesus Christ to your resurrection and mine. No, the soul is not immortal in and of itself without the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

That's really the task of Easter for us in these coming weeks. We need to explore what the resurrection of Christ means for our lives in Central Illinois, when we are not standing in a gorgeous sanctuary filled with stately and fragrant lilies listening to a glorious choir and a triumphant pipe organ and brass, but are toiling away in front of computer screens and resistant soil and cluttered cabinets.

My hope for you in these weeks is that you will find that your natural doubt and skepticism about scientifically impossible spiritual events have to give way to a deep faith that trusts God's love and believes that Christ lives in the world today and in your own life.

And if it's still hard for you, I encourage you to stick around with the other disciples like Thomas who refused to believe that Christ was risen until he had seen the wounds in the Lord's hands with his own eyes. Thomas came to faith in the company of other believers. And that's where you belong during these weeks of Easter. And I belong there with you. Let's worship God together and celebrate Christ's resurrection again this Sunday!

*Charles Watkins*

## Acknowledging Your Gifts to Central

In the last week of March, a grateful acknowledgment of all your gifts to Central Christian Church since January 1 was mailed to each regular contributor to our church's mission and ministry. Please check your statement carefully to be sure that your giving estimate or "pledge" amount is correct for both General Operating Fund and Building Fund 2006-2009, and to be certain that all your gifts have been properly recorded in the fund for which you intended them. It is easier to correct any error in church records now than later in the year. If you did not receive or have misplaced your statement, please call the church office, 428-4336 so a new copy can be printed for you.



### News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Tom Israel** and family following the April 6<sup>th</sup> death of his wife, **Doris Israel**.

### Apology

To **Dennis & Debbie Downey** for the omission of their names on the list of Easter lilies in Sunday's bulletin. Their lily was given in memory of their loved ones.

### Intergenerational Mission Trip Planned for This Summer!

A wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth is being planned for you for this summer! An intergenerational mission trip (for adults and youth at least 16 years of age) will leave for Slidell, Louisiana (New Orleans area) on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. During the week in Slidell, participants will help rebuild homes which were destroyed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. School will be out and this would be a fabulous opportunity for families with teenager to work and grow together! The cost for the trip will be approximately \$250 and scholarships are available for Central members. For more information, pick up a registration pack in the Fellowship Center or speak with Pastors Robert or Gretchen.

### Habitat for Humanity House Update

The Habitat worksite is bustling with activity as volunteers work to complete the Central Christian Church House by early summer. Exterior preparations are being made to pour the concrete drive and sidewalks, kitchen cabinets are being installed, and trim work is being done. The house is shaping up and will soon become home for Unity and her children. Remember that volunteers are needed each Thursday and Saturday morning at 1735 North 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The only requirements for volunteers are willing hands and hearts - no building experience is necessary. For more information, contact **Norm Lienemann**. See more photos and progress reports on our website at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org).



### Breakfast Optimist Chili Supper is April 20

The Breakfast Optimist Club is holding its annual Chili Supper in Central's Great Hall on Friday evening, April 20, from 5-7 p.m. Proceeds from this and other Optimist Club fundraisers support youth projects including Camp COCO (Children's Oncology Camp Organization). Tickets are available at the door: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children, \$15 Family.



### Sunday, April 15, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: 10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse, Jane Latshaw  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250

### Monday (16)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

### Tuesday (17)

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-Property Dept. Disciple Room  
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

### Wednesday (18)

9:00-Baby Talk hearing tests, Parlor  
9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
11:00-Latino Coalition for Prevention,  
Great Hall  
12:00-Central Singers  
1:00-Banner Committee, 207  
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280  
6:30-8:00-Broadway Rehearsal  
6:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room

### Thursday (19)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280  
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room  
6:15-GED Family Fun, Great Hall  
6:30-Boy Scouts, 290  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### Friday (20)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280  
5:00-7:00-Breakfast Optimists Chili  
Supper, Great Hall

### Saturday (21)

9:00-1:30-Couple Communication,  
Disciple Room  
9:30-11:00-Broadway Tech. Rehearsal  
1:00-3:00-Broadway Dress Rehearsal,  
Great Hall

### Counting On You

#### April 8

Worship Attendance .....505  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 76

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## Serving Schedule—April 15, 2007

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Jan Dobbs, Brett Swallow

### 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 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 - Larry & Darla Otis, Debbie Seaberg, Dottie Scholes

10:45 - Pam & Shelby Larrick, Mary Boyle, Sid Rotz

### Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Andrew Otis

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Jim Hinze

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Gary & Penny Rutherford

### Children's Worship:

Christine Lyman-Harm

### Preparation of Communion:

Evelyn Sperry, Greg, Jo & Megan Carter, Gregg & Linda Foltz

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

### April 18 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

### Hosts:

Apr. 16 9:00-12:30 - Florence Boline  
12:30-4:00 - Dee Hill

Apr. 17 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Apr. 18 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman  
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Apr. 19 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Apr. 20 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
**Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700**  
**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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**Central Christian Church**  
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650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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