



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, April 18, 2007

No. 16

Stephen Ministers Commissioned Last Sunday

Three new Stephen Ministers have now completed their training and are joining those previously commissioned and serving our congregation. Pictured are **Julie Martin, Becky Williams and Theresa Fulk**, who have completed 50



hours of training in listening and caring skills. Stephen Ministers are linked in one-on-one, confidential relationships with individuals and provide support, nurture and spiritual encouragement for those who are going through difficult or stressful times. If you or someone you know

might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please speak with **Pastor Gretchen**. If you would like more information on becoming a Stephen Minister, speak with **Linda Kuhns** or **Carol McClure**.

Pastors' Class Youth Baptized



Pictured are members of the Pastor's Class who were baptised Easter Sunday.

Ladies Night Out April 30th

Women and friends of Central are invited to join together for Ladies Night Out on Monday, April 30th 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! You may order off the menu and will 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. 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 30th!

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Follow Me

Text: John 21:9-19
Robert Bushey

Broadway Comes to Central

Broadway Comes to Central this 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 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.

Tickets on Sale Now for the Sarah's Daughter's Banquet

Our 9th Annual Sarah's Daughter's Banquet will be Friday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m. You will want to be there for an evening packed with great food, fellowship and wonderful music from *4 Crying Out Loud*, a quartet from the Decatur Chordsmen. The \$6 tickets (\$3 for children ages 2-10) will be on sale this Sunday in the Friendship Center or through the Church office. All women and girls are invited and encouraged to attend.

Central Youth

Sunday, April 22nd
3-5 p.m.

Central Youth
Grades 6-12

Youth will meet at the Church.

Summer Camp **It's Time to Register** **for Summer Activities!**

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**

Youth entering 6th grade-
finishing 12th grade

Evangelism Seeds

"A decision to let God use us to share real faith pries us loose from old habits, perceptions and moorings. We always thought of our church as Central Christian Church, on the corner of Monroe and Williams streets. Now Central Christian is a clipper ship, canvas spread, filled with treasures, bound for the Indies. You may feel a little seasick. Change is hard. God is trustworthy!"

Adapted from Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese

Robert's Reflections

The news headlines of this week have shouted cries of anguish in the face of unimaginable violence committed against children of God in alleys here at home and across rivers and mountains from here on a picturesque college campus. Diverse lives moving in directions both positively and negatively were abruptly and senselessly ended, and God cried with us at the horror of it all. Our shock and amazement often turns to speculation and investigation and we may very quickly lose touch with the true impact that killing another person has upon our whole human family. And, our assumptions about the innocence or guilt, worth or unworthiness of persons involved often leads us down roads of destructive hate, prejudice, vengeance, and apathy.

The Apostle Paul reminded the early Christians in Colossians 3:1-17, often the objects of violence themselves, to "get rid of...anger, wrath, malice, slander." As those who have received new life in the risen Christ, "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience." As we mourn the enormous loss of life that is a result of violence in our communities, our nation and indeed our world, let us respond with hearts and voices of compassion, let us reach out to our neighbors and even our enemies with kindness, let us reconcile ourselves to those we have not forgiven, let us practice patience in our hurriedness to execute our understanding of justice, and with meekness, let us seek God's peace for our hearts and for our communities. Then, my friends, we will experience the healing power of Christ's resurrection in our midst.

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.

Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.

Peace is not the result of violent repression.

*Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all
to the good of all.*

Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity.

It is right and duty.

Oscar Romero, 20th Century El Salvadorian archbishop

May God grant you peace!

Robert

Dorcas Meets April 24th

Central women and friends are invited to the Tuesday, April 24th, 7:00 p.m. Dorcas meeting at the home of **Chris Fagin**. The meeting will be a presentation of the Quaker Faith presented by **Cindy Reynolds**, a practicing Quaker here in Decatur. As always, our time together will include gathering toiletry items for Oasis, sharing the joys and concerns of our sisters in Christ, and enjoying a fabulous dessert. Remember, we have only this meeting and the one in May before we break for our summer schedules. See YOU on the 24th!

Bells in Motion to Perform at Central, April 29

Bells In Motion, under the direction of Michael Lamb, 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.

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.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Sue Ann & Dick Cain** and family following the April 11th death of Sue Ann's mother, *Dorothy Price*.

Help Stock the Food Shelves

April 10-23 the YWCA Decatur-Macon County Youth Volunteer Club is holding its Project S.O.S. (Stock our Shelves) Food Drive. Please help them reach their goal of 1,000 items by dropping your non-perishable donation at the main entrance of the church. All donations will be delivered to the Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry. For more information call 872-3835 ext. 128.

Tia White, Youth Volunteer Coordinator
YWCA Decatur-Macon County

Note of Thanks Received

What a wonderful group of young people we have! Under the leadership of Don & Julie Martin and Janet Lyman they came to our home Sunday afternoon and cheerfully and efficiently readied our yard for spring time.

The kids did this as a service to us in Christian love. We really appreciated this evidence of their roles in Discipleship. We want to thank them publicly and express our love to them.

Pastor Bill & Claudine Nichols

Counting On You

April 15

Worship Attendance 293
Sunday School Attendance 72

During the first quarter of 2007, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$144,726 which is \$10,274 below the giving goal for the first three months of this year.

Expenses to operate the church the first quarter were \$184,072 which is \$15,709 below the budgeted amount. After ending the previous three months with a cash balance on hand in the general operating fund, the church slipped into a deficit of \$6,642 at the end of March. Although this is substantially less than deficits experienced in previous years, it requires our generous attention.

All outreach commitments through March both locally and globally were paid in full.

Gifts to the *Preserving Our Past...Securing Our Future* capital campaign during the first quarter were \$40,796. The church's building fund debt now stands at \$140,215.

Your regular and generous giving keeps Central going! We're counting on you! Be sure to do your best for your church, so that your church can do its best for God.

Detailed monthly financial reports for the congregation and for the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter by the church office in the Friendship Center along with minutes of the last church council meeting. You can always pick up copies and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



Sunday, April 22, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse, Lucy Acheson
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
12:00-Birthday Reception,
Disciple Room
2:00-4:00-*Broadway* Rehearsal,
Great Hall
3:00-Youth Group
6:00-Choir *Broadway* Fund Raiser,
Great Hall

Monday (23)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
6:30-Christian Ed. Dept., 290

Tuesday (24)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room
6:30-Young Adults, Bushey's home
7:00-Dorcas, home of Chris Fagin

Wednesday (25)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
9:00-12:00-GED PSAT Testing,
Disciple Room
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-4:00-Banner Committee, 207
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
7:00-Preschool Board, 280

Thursday (26)

9:00-12:00-GED PSAT Testing
10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (27)

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

Saturday (28)

8:00-4:00-Emmaus Group,
Disciple Room & Sanctuary

Serving Schedule—April 22, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Shirley Swarthout, Julie Martin

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Larry Pepper

Decatur Memorial: Mary Jane Linton

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 Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

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 - Mike & Gerri Munos, Clark & Mary Waldmier

10:45 - Randy, Shirley & Jessica Brooks, Roy Schilling

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Bill & Mary Alice Rule

Parish Nurse:

 Lucy Acheson

Children's Worship:

 Katie Powers

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Daniel Hinze

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

April 25 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

Hosts:

Apr. 23 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Apr. 24 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders

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

Apr. 25 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Apr. 26 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Apr. 27 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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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