



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, May 2, 2007

No. 17

Open House for Dove's New Facility

This Sunday, May 6th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., our Christian Action & Community Services (CACS) Department cordially invites our entire congregation to tour the Anna B. Millikin Home, which was given to Dove, Inc. on February 1st of this year. Soon renovations will begin for this home at 302 S. Union Street to serve as Dove's Domestic Violence Shelter, a safe place for women and children to live. Dove is seeking financial support for a few needed improvements, including security screens for the windows, a fence for the children's play area, kitchen equipment, and a security system. As most of you know, Central Christian Church takes pride in the history of Dove, and during this open house you will be given an opportunity to pledge your financial support toward these improvements which will help Dove achieve its mission to coordinate efforts to address unmet human needs and social injustices. During this event we will also conduct a raffle, with proceeds to Dove, for two beautiful items made by the ChristCare Stitchers. For your enjoyment, dessert and entertainment will be provided during your visit.

Last Chance for Tickets!

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 quarter 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.

Pastors Class Youth Become Members



SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
That New Commandment
Text: John 13:31-35
Charles Watkins

Help the Nominating Committee

This Sunday and next you will find in your worship bulletin a form ready to receive your suggestions for the Nominating Committee as they set about the task of nominating elders, deacons, trustees, and officers emeriti for election this fall. This year the Nominating Committee includes **Bruce Campbell '08, Jane Davis '07, Al Fagin '08, Chloe Hoaglin '08, Richard Ward '07**, with **Mike Holbrook** and **Charles Watkins** ex-officio. Help them out this week with your suggestions for leadership.

Just Flicks Showing This Sunday

You are invited this Sunday to see the film *Romero* which tells the story of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who opposed the tyrannical repression in El Salvador. A new bishop, he spoke out against death squads and the terror campaign the government used to crush opposing voices. The film will show at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church and is the last film of our Just Flicks 2006/2007. Dessert will be provided. From *Romero: I'd like to make an appeal in a special way to the men in the army. Brothers each one of you is one of us. We are the same people. The farmers and peasants that you kill are your own brothers and sisters. When you hear the words of a man telling you to kill, refuse to kill members of your own family.*"

Central Youth

Sunday, May 6th
Youth Service Project
1:45-4:15 p.m.

Central Youth Grades 6-12

Youth will meet at the Church and then go to the Dove Fundraiser at the Anna B Millikin site. We will be helping with the Open House which will raise funds for the new Domestic Violence Shelter and other services which will use the facility. Pick up is at the church at 4:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 13th
Mother's Day

Youth will not meet.

Sunday, May 20th
Weldon Springs State Park
Noon-5:30 p.m.

Central Youth Grades 3-5 & 6-12

Families Welcome!
Picnic lunch, hiking, paddle boats & more.
Sign up this Sunday!

Summer Camp

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

Genesis Camp Grades 2-3
June 4-6 Deadline May 6th!

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!

Charles's Column

Jesus told a troubling story about a man of means who was trying to figure out how to store the fabulous bounty with which God had blessed him. At the end of the story, God addresses the man: "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

Even for us who do not consider ourselves hugely wealthy, God's question is a haunting one, and each of us needs to answer about the things we have: "Whose will they be?"

As you think about your own answer to that question, here are three things you need to know.

1. You already have a will. The State of Illinois has written it for you by statute, and that will goes into effect at your death. You may not like the State's plan for distributing your property. You can make a better plan by consulting an attorney and writing your own will.

2. The will you write with your attorney can bless not only your family and friends but your church and other causes which express the values you hold dear.

3. There are a variety of ways both before your death and now by which you can make a difference for your church forever.

Each year with the publication of the annual report on special gifts *For All the Saints*, it is amazing to see the variety of ways that members of our congregation have made plans and arrangements for supporting their church's mission of witness and service beyond their own life times.

If you name Central Christian Church in your will, you may designate just how the church will use your gift. You can endow a particular ministry to benefit from your generosity, or you can leave your bequest undesignated to be divided according to the congregation's policy which splits the gift into thirds: one-third for the Building Fund, one-third for the Permanent Memorial Fund, and one-third for outreach ministries both local and global.

Last year Central received one of its largest bequests on record from the estate of *Gansel and Marie R. Bennett*. In Marie's will, the church was instructed to deposit the entire amount in the Permanent Memorial Fund which is administered by the Board of Trustees of our congregation. The Permanent Memorial Fund is retained by the church always and the interest earned flows into the General Operating Fund to sustain our congregation's ministries.

The previous year *Betty Campbell* made a similarly large gift to Central and to the Community Foundation of Decatur from which five per cent is received by the church's General Operating Fund each July.

There are many other ways that you can continue to witness to your faith forever. Almost 70% of Americans have no will prepared prior to their deaths. I am glad to be in the 30% who are better prepared, and I hope you will join me there while you can.

Charles Watkins

MUSICAMP is Coming!

Join us as we combine forces with First Baptist Church to present MUSICAMP, for children grades K-6, June 4-8 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1329 Arbor Drive.

Registration forms are available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact **Don Martin**.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Max & Evelyn Sperry** and family following the April 27th death of his brother, *Jerry E. Sperry* of Blue Mound.

Note of Thanks Received

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and support. We especially appreciate the ministers for their hospital visits, concern and care, and continued prayers for strength and healing. I am continuing to recover and heal at home.

Again, thank you so much. You are a wonderful church family.

Bob & Phyl Logan

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, May 9th!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal and program and delightful fellowship on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, May 9th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu includes Meat Loaf, Baked Potato, Glazed Carrots, Jello Pear Salad, Rolls and Butter and Strawberry Pie for dessert!

Following the meal, a musical group of children from Hope Academy, *The Chimes of Hope*, will entertain us. Central Christian is linked to Hope Academy through the *One Church-One School* program. To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this Sunday. If you think you would like to come but are not yet sure, please go ahead and make a reservation. We would rather have food left over than not have prepared enough for everyone. **Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, May 7th.**

Scholarship Applications Available

The *Walter and Inabell Kirby Scholarship* is awarded annually to a qualified applicant who is pursuing a career in music or international affairs.

The *Roy O. & Rachel R. Schilling Scholarship* is awarded to a participating member of Central currently attending a college, university or trade school, or planning to attend one the following year.

The *Cocoa "Coke" and Lilabelle Traylor Scholarship* is awarded annually to a deserving person who wishes to pursue a career in teaching.

Applications are available at the church office and are due back by May 7th. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need. Participation in church, school and community activities are also considered.

In Memoriam

During the first quarter of 2007 Central received special gifts honoring the memories of *Paul E. Anderson, Robert Cargill, Edith Fuqua, James Gentry, W. Dale Gustin, Kathleen Harrington, Joseph Hostetler, Fern Hudson, Harold Irwin, Nathalie Irwin, Virginia Isom, Donald March, Ernestine J. Mrozinski, Arthur Rueff, and Robert E. Ward.*

We are grateful for the lives of these whose memories are honored here at Central and for those who have given memorial funds honoring them. Memorial gifts to Central in the first three months of 2007 total \$7,865.

Gifts to the church honoring the memories of friends and family members are always welcome and appropriate. Each gift is recorded at the church and acknowledged to the family. Memorial gifts are used for special needs approved by the Church Council and in consultation with family members.



Sunday, May 6, 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

2:00-4:00-Youth serve at Dove Open House

6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian

Monday (7)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

4:00-Aerobics, 290

Tuesday (8)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

4:00-Aerobics, 290

5:00-CADV, Disciple Room

6:00-Shepherding, Volunteer Room

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

6:30-Young Adults, Bushey house

Wednesday (9)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290

10:30-Preschool Mother's Tea, Disciple Room

12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall

12:00-Central Singers

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

4:00-Aerobics, 290

Thursday (10)

9:00-4:00-Staff Retreat, Springfield

10:00-Alanon, 212

10:30-Preschool Mother's Tea, Great Hall

4:00-Aerobics, 290

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (11)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

6:30-Sarah's Daughters Banquet, Great Hall

Saturday (12)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

April 29

Worship Attendance 287

Sunday School Attendance 72

Serving Schedule—May 6, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mark Beal, Jan Baird

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Chris Fagin & Becky Johnston

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 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 - Bev & Merle Chapman, David & Rosalie Poland

10:45 - Ed & Lucy Acheson, Jon & Jane French

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Ed & Joy Adams

Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Jan & Ron Dobbs, Don & Virginia Swallow

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

May 9 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew

Hosts:

May 7 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Darla Lienemann

May 8 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

May 9 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

May 10 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 11 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
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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