



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, October 24, 2007

No. 43

## Organ Concert This Sunday

This Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in our sanctuary, British royal organist **Timothy Byram-Wigfield** will appear in concert on the Diller Memorial Organ. Mr. Byram-Wigfield is Director of Music at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. He studied at King's College, Cambridge and the Royal College of Music. He won an organ scholarship to Christ Church, Oxford before being appointed Sub Organist at Winchester Cathedral.



He became the first full-time Master of the Music at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh at the age of only 27, winning considerable acclaim for the cathedral choir's performances through concerts, tours, and broadcasts.

He has been privileged to direct the famous choir of men and boys at Windsor in many royal services, the most recent being the Blessing Service following the marriage of TRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, and ceremonies to mark HM The Queen's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

His concert program at Central this Sunday includes Bach's *Fantasia and Fugue in G minor* as well as African American Spirituals and Widor's *Symphonie No. VI in G minor*.

This concert is free and open to all, so be sure to share this extraordinary opportunity to hear one of Britain's most brilliant organists.

## All Church Hayride

Central members and friends are invited to the All-Church Hayride, Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll begin to gather at 4:00 p.m. and will eat around 5:00 p.m. at Hayrides & More in Blue Mound. This annual event always promises good food, fun and fellowship! The cost is \$6 per person with a maximum of \$15 per family. This includes the hayride, hotdogs, buns, s'mores, condiments, drinks and table service. Please bring a dinner item or munchie to share. Remember, it can get pretty cold on the hayride, so dress appropriately. Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center or call the church office.



ALL-CHURCH HAYRIDE

## Cardboard Pick Up Rescheduled

The Youth Cardboard Recycling Project for October has been rescheduled for pick up on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:30a.m.-12:00p.m. If you signed up previously and would rather bring your cardboard on Sunday, you may do so.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007**

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**YOUTH SUNDAY**

*It's Hard to be Humble*

Text: Luke 18:9-14

## Have We Heard From You?

Central Christian Church extends sincere thanks to the 222 individuals and families who have completed Giving Cards with commitments of \$558,555 to sustain the mission and ministries of our congregation. This total is \$66,889 ahead of where we were at this time last year, but still \$9,291 short of last year's final total. The fall stewardship emphasis officially ended last Sunday, but the church still needs to hear from 125 families who have not yet indicated their plans to support the church. Please complete a card this week before the 2008 budget has to be prepared in November.



## Join Us For Ladies Night Out!

All Central women and friends are invited for an enjoyable Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, 3010 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Enjoy delicious food from Rusty's extensive and diverse menu which includes steaks, chicken, seafood and sandwiches. We will order off the menu and the gratuity will be added to your total. As always, fun, laughter, and door prizes guaranteed! Sign up this week in the Friendship Center.



## Central Youth

**Youth Sunday  
October 28<sup>th</sup>**

ALL Central Youth participating in worship leadership need to be at the church by 7:30a.m. Youth grades 3-5 are welcome to help with ushering and greeting and should be at the church 30 minutes prior to worship. A light breakfast will be provided during the Sunday School hour for participants.

**All Church Hayride  
Hayrides & More in Blue  
Mound**

**Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Church Bus will leave the Parking Lot at 3:45p.m.

Get your ticket in the Friendship Center on Sunday.



**Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Rescheduled**

**Cardboard Pick up Day**

Youth grades 6-12 will travel throughout Decatur to pick up cardboard to be recycled from 10:30a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We will stop for lunch afterwards.

## Robert's Reflections

One of the things I most enjoy about our ministry together is the way that we partner in ministry with our children and youth. This Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> will mark the tenth fall Youth Sunday Worship that I have had the privilege to help our youth plan. During the past decade, I have had many opportunities to reflect on the how's and why's of youth ministry. For many congregations, the motivation for ministry with youth is the desire to lead as many youth as possible to Christ. For many, this is a ministry of introducing young people to their Lord and Savior with the purpose of saving the youth from themselves and ultimately from some eternal destination other than life eternal in God's presence. So, you research all the latest trends in youth culture, buy all the gadgets, play "their" music perhaps even at a volume level unhealthy for hearing, and hire motivational speakers who dress like youth, talk like youth and often act like teenagers. Of course, this doesn't fit in the adult sanctuary or banquet hall and so you buy or lease a space outside of the building, wire and light it for concert-like appeal, furnish it with gaming centers, and purchase billboards, cool cars with your name on the side, send out thousands of flyers about all the cool things you have for the kids. This is one way of doing ministry with youth.

Another way to do youth ministry is to seek to engage the youth of the congregation in every aspect of the communal life of the church. Instead of separating youth from the adult world of the church, youth are encouraged to participate in various ways such as serving in worship as liturgists, deacons, members of the choirs, ushers and greeters throughout the year. Youth are involved by helping with fellowship dinners, serving on departments, helping serve at Good Samaritan Inn and more. The focus of this way of ministry with youth is to connect young people to Christ through the many relationships they build with caring adults and through the witness they receive as they watch their mentors and peers live as faithful disciples of Jesus. Under girding this practice is the belief that our salvation is not determined or secured by some act done on our own or by someone else on our behalf. Salvation is ultimately a gift from God, given freely in unconditional love and abundant grace. In other words, the motivation for this way of doing youth ministry is not saving youth from themselves or some eternal destination. The motivation is to connect youth with the community of faith whose witness, to the amazing grace and boundless love of God revealed in the life, witness, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, invites young and old alike to a new way of life.

At Central we have chosen to do the latter, to do the best we can to connect our youth with the mission and ministry of our church and thus to our Lord and Savior. The way we have chosen is not pushy, aggressive or manipulative. Youth are welcomed into our church family. Youth are engaged in meaningful ministry and in the joyful play of fellowship. Two current programs are examples of this type of ministry with youth. Our Cardboard Recycling project, which is NOT a fundraiser or a drive, is designed to be a service project helping our youth value the ministry of serving each other and as a witness to our call to be good stewards of God's creation. I have been very encouraged by your response to the project so far! Some of our youth, who are available, have begun helping with our after school program at Hope Academy working side by side with caring adults and reaching out to help children achieve in school. The focus here, of course, is to value the ministry of outreach in our diverse community, especially with those younger than us.

Thank you for continuing to support youth ministry at Central and we look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

*-Robert*



### Order Your Christmas Poinsettias!

Yes, Fall is only beginning, but now is the time to order your Holiday Poinsettias! We are selling them as a fund raiser for future mission trips. The poinsettias are grown at a local greenhouse. Each plant is in a 6 1/2 " pot with a decorative wrap and beautiful handmade, wired bow. Plants are available in red, pink, white, peppermint (peach) and marble (pink center with white on outside of leaves) and sell for \$12.50 each. Order

forms are available in the Friendship Center. Orders will be accepted through October 28<sup>th</sup> and payment must accompany the order. Order one or several for yourself or others (they make great gifts) but don't miss this opportunity to pre-purchase beautiful holiday plants and support future mission trips. The plants will be available for pick-up the first Sunday of December. For more information, see **Pastor Gretchen**.

### One Church One School News

Our One Church One School ministry with Hope Academy is seeking volunteers to help with a Thanksgiving Feast for the Fifth Grade on Tuesday, November 20th. Volunteers will work with 2-3 fifth grade students to help them prepare dishes from recipes in the school's family science center.

Central's after school program H2O, which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at Hope Academy resumed this week. We received word that our grant request submitted to the Decatur Public Schools Foundation to fund supplies was recently approved. We are anticipating serving nearly thirty students during the current academic quarter. Volunteers are still needed for the program and do not need to be available every Tuesday or Thursday. Contact Pastor Robert if you are interested in helping with the Thanksgiving Feast or the H2O program.

### Our Identity

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a community of believers who through baptism into Jesus Christ are bound by covenant to God and one another. Disciples draw their inspiration from Scripture and the Holy Spirit, celebrating around the Lord's Table the life, death, resurrection and continuing presence of Christ. They proclaim the Good News of salvation and claim as their particular mission the quest for Christian unity. While stressing freedom and diversity under God, they believe unity and mission are inseparable. They witness and serve among the whole human family in the interest of peace, justice, mercy and kindness.

### Financial Reports Available

Detailed reports on church finances are always available on the counter in the Friendship Center next to the church office. The monthly Treasurer's report to the Church Council on the General Operating Fund and various designated funds are placed there along with the monthly Board of Trustees financial report.



### Sunday, October 28, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Jessica Brooks, Piano  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250-270  
4:00-All-Church Hayride, Blue Mound  
4:30-Timothy Byram-Wigfield Organ Concert, Sanctuary

### Monday (29)

10:30-1:30-Youth Cardboard Pick Up & Lunch  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall  
6:30-CCC Bowling, Pla Mor Lanes

### Tuesday (30)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
6:00-Ladies Night Out, Rusty's

### Wednesday (31)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
12:00-Central Singers  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:00-Personnel Dept., Parlor

### Thursday (November 1)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:30-ChristCare, 290  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
5:45-Shepherding & Fellowship Depts., Disciple Room  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### Counting On You

#### October 21

Worship Attendance ..... 316  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 73

**Serving Schedule—October 28, 2007**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Central Youth

**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 & 10:45 - Central Youth

**Greeters:**

8:15 - Dennis & Debbie Downey, HH & Hilary Critchfield  
10:45 - Jim & Lois Whitaker, Glen & Jody Featherstun

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

**Acolytes:**

8:15 - Julia Funk  
10:45 - Rachel Ash

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Donna Dash  
10:45 - Larry Pepper

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Brett & Kelly Swallow Family

**Children's Worship:** Teri Bushey

**Preparation of Communion:**

Carroll & Doris Little, Jan Patrick, Hazel Perry, Yvonne Purcell

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams  
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes  
10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

**October 31 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Joanne Gustin

**Hosts:**

Oct. 29 9:00-12:30 - Florence Bolin  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Oct. 30 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Oct. 31 9:00-12:30 - Louise Boline  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Nov. 1 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson  
12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins  
Nov. 2 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
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 Assistant  
Pat Beals ..... Administrative Assistant  
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 ..... Caretaker  
David Flanders ..... Caretaker  
Dean Hadden ..... Caretaker  
Charles Wallace ..... Caretaker

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**Central Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street  
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