



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, October 31, 2007

No. 5

Set your clock back!

Daylight Savings Time ends in Illinois this Sunday morning at 2:00 a.m., so be sure to set your clocks back one hour before you retire on Saturday night. Some of your electronic devices may have changed to Central Standard Time last Sunday if they didn't get the memo about the change of dates enacted by Congress. But if by chance, you show up at church an hour early, the doors will be open and the heat will be on, the sanctuary and chapel will be available for prayer and the library will be available for browsing.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2007

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

The Inheritance of the Saints

Text: Rev. 21:22-22:5

Charles Watkins

Children's Christmas Pageant

Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, November 10th at 10-11:30 a.m. for our Christmas pageant for children ages 3 yrs.-11 yrs. The pageant, which will take place on Sunday, December 2nd at 3 p.m., is entitled Matt and Lucy's Version Births and is based on the birth narratives found in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. The drama includes several delightful and yet simple songs that help our actors tell the unique stories of Jesus' birth from the two gospels. Contact **Pastor Robert** or **Don Martin** for more information.

Central Needs You

When the Stewardship Department meets next week to prepare the 2008 budget for our church, will it know that you plan to support Central's mission and ministries next year? Be sure to turn in a giving card this Sunday to show your commitment to keep our church's witness strong next year.

So far, the church has received Giving Cards from 238 of the 350 giving units who support the work of our congregation. The total committed on Giving Cards is \$579,095. Our church will be at full strength next year only if it has generous support from you.

PBS Series "Walking the Bible" Offered on Sunday Mornings

Join us for a new three-week Sunday School option beginning November 11th. Walking the Bible presents one man's epic journey — by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel — through the greatest stories ever told. From crossing the Red Sea to climbing Mount Sinai to touching the burning bush, Bruce Feiler's inspiring odyssey will forever change your view of history's most legendary events. The stories in the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Torah, come alive as Feiler searches across three continents for the stories and heroes shared by Christians and Jews. You'll visit the slopes of Mount Ararat, where Noah's ark landed, trek to the desert outpost where Abraham first heard the words of God, and scale the summit where Moses received the Ten Commandments. Dramatic scripture readings interspersed throughout bring you closer to these Biblical settings. A once-in-a-lifetime journey, Walking the Bible offers new insights into the roots of our common faith and uncovers fresh answers to the most profound questions of the human spirit. This series is open to ANYONE and EVERYONE, especially those that do not already attend a Sunday School class. It also provides you an opportunity to invite someone you know without a church home in Decatur to come for each of the three Sundays, enjoy the film series, stay for inspiring worship and experience the fellowship of Central at our Thanksgiving Dinner on November 18th. Come and join us for Walking the Bible November 11th, 18th and 25th!

Our Journey of Faith

Special thanks to those of you who accepted the Evangelism Department's challenge to write down and share something of your own personal faith journey. Copies of the collection of writings are now available in the Friendship Center. We invite you to pick one up this Sunday. The booklet will also provide a useful resource for visitors and new members at Central. If you are inspired by the stories you read in the collection, take a few minutes and send us your story. We are already gathering more faith journey stories for the next installment of the booklet. Thank you for helping to tell the story of Central Christian Church through the sharing of your own stories!

Central Youth

Sunday, November 4th Road Trip to C-SC

Central Youth will travel to Disciples' affiliated Culver-Stockton College in Canton, MO to attend a play starring Broadway actor Robert Costanzo and CCC actors **Zach Martin** and **Andrew Rutherford**. Costanzo, Martin and Rutherford will appear in *Moon Over Buffalo*. Written by Ken Ludwig and directed by Jeffery Kellogg, this comedy is set in 1953 in Buffalo, N.Y., and tells the tale of two traveling actors, who are performing *Cyrano de Bergerac* in town, but who have their eyes set on Hollywood. The Church Bus will leave from Central at 11:30 a.m. and we will return close to 9 p.m. Cost is \$8 per youth which includes your ticket and supper. Lunch may be brought with you. RSVP by Friday, November 2nd with Pastor Robert at rbushey@cccdisciples.org or 428-4336.

Sunday, November 11th Annual Indoor Golf Scramble! 5-7 p.m. for Youth Grades 3-12

We will rotate tee-times so that our younger youth golf at different times from our older youth. Special lighting effects, fog and even a glow in the dark hole await our duffers. Snacks will be provided and prizes too! Bring a friend and a putter if you have one.

Charles's Column

This Sunday as we worship God, we celebrate the faith of all the saints as in the words of a favorite hymn: "Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven."

We are part of more than just a world-wide fellowship of over a billion and a half "saints below." For we have fellowship and keep faith with a vast host of "saints above" in what the writer of the New Testament Book of Hebrews describes as a "great cloud of witnesses" which surrounds us in the arena of history and cheers us on as we "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat on the right hand of the throne of God."

With organ and choir and congregational singing this Sunday we reach beyond our own time and place to join hearts and voices with those who have gone before us and made the way straight for our own competition for the hearts and minds of our generation.

This Sunday we distribute the fourteenth annual publication of our congregation's report on special gifts *For All the Saints*, including annual memorial gifts and other extraordinary gifts which enhance the witness of our congregation. Even as we rejoice in all these special "over-and-above" gifts, we recognize that none of this would be possible without the ordinary, everyday gifts that faithful members of Central give to sustain our congregation's mission and ministries of witness and service. (By the way, have you turned in your Giving Card for 2008 to assure that our church's ministries can continue next year?)

One important goal of this annual publication is to give thanks and recognition to those who have made special gifts. The church genuinely appreciates your generosity in honoring the memories of friends and loved ones. But the greater importance of this effort is to remember those who have finished their course. Just as our central act of worship each Sunday is a service of remembrance at the Lord's Table, the church has an obligation and commitment never to forget those whom we see no longer.

On the back of Sunday's worship bulletin will be printed a list of all members of Central Christian Church who have died since last All Saints day. We recognize the significant losses our congregation and our world have suffered in the last twelve months, and we resolve to honor their memories and treasure the relationships we had with them and hope to have again across the river.

I hope you will be in the sanctuary Sunday morning to celebrate all the Saints!

Charles Watkins

Volunteers Needed

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, meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at Hope Academy. 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.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Dr. Charles & Mary Lou Stanley** on the death of their son-in-law, *Dr. Charles Thomas Moran* in South Carolina.

Congratulations to **Kaylene Beal**, daughter of **Mark & Katie Beal**, who was announced the National Merit Semifinalist for the 2006 competition. Kaylene, a senior at MacArthur High School, scored in the 99th percentile of all students who took the PSAT test and was among the top one-half percent of the students in Illinois.

Next Cardboard Pick Up Scheduled

Another trailer load of cardboard was delivered to the recycling center this week! The Youth Cardboard Recycling Project for November has been scheduled for Sunday, November 25th beginning at 1:30 p.m. Watch for sign ups to begin soon. Acceptable cardboard includes corrugated, uncoated food containers, dry goods boxes, tissue boxes, etc. Please, help us by emptying your boxes of foam packaging, tissue paper, or other contents. Boxes do not need to be broken down, however this does aid our progress. We will be scheduling a pick up after Christmas, as well.

All Church Hayride in Blue Mound - October 28th



Central members and friends gathered in Blue Mound Sunday afternoon to enjoy great food and fellowship and an absolutely perfect fall evening at our annual Hayride and Cookout. We hope you and your family will make plans to join us at our next Fellowship event, our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 18th. Save the date and look for more information to come soon!



Sunday, November 4, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Jason Zimmerman,
Cello; Deonne Orvis, Violin;
John Baird, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250

Monday (5)

6:30-Boy Scouts, Great Hall & Disciple Room
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (6)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207
6:30-Bus Committee

Wednesday (7)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
5:00-MCCOCP Meeting, Disciple Room

Thursday (8)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:30-ChristCare, 290
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:30-Stewardship Dept., Disciple Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
6:30-Chancel Choir

Friday (9)

1:00-Banner Team, 210

Saturday (10)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

October 28

Worship Attendance 270
Sunday School Attendance 76

Serving Schedule—November 4, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Bob Smith, Shirley Swarthout

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Larry Pepper & Brett Swallow

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 - Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

Greeters:

8:15 - Don & Brenda Tankersley, Kevin & Mickie Wilmot

10:45 - Andy & Theresa Fulk, Ron & Jan Dobbs

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Ed & Joy Adams

Children's Worship:

Teri Bushey

Preparation of Communion:

Jean & Judson Pease, Claudia Curry, Kevin & Kim Miller

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

November 7 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Janet Gray

Hosts:

Nov. 5 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Nov. 6 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Swallow

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

Nov. 7 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Nov. 8 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Nov. 9 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

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

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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 Latschaw 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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