



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, November 7, 2007

No. 45

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

The Fellowship Department invites you and your family to an all church Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 18th, immediately following the 10:45 worship service. Turkey, dressing, rolls and beverage will be provided by the Fellowship Department. Each family is asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert, enough to feed the Disciples! Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday and plan to join your church family on November 18th.

PBS Series "Walking the Bible" Offered on Sunday Mornings

Join us this Sunday in the Disciple Room for a new three-week Sunday School option. *Walking the Bible* presents one man's epic journey 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. *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 EVERYONE, especially those that do not already attend a Sunday School class. It also provides an opportunity to invite someone 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 18. Join us for *Walking the Bible* November 11, 18 and 25!

Spirit of Christmas 2007

Preparations are under way for Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2007. Plan now to participate in this wonderful outreach ministry by either "adopting" one or more persons to share your spirit of giving with gifts that you provide, or by giving a cash donation to the program by marking your check made payable to the church with *Spirit of Christmas*. We are anticipating sharing with 90 children and adults from Webster-Cantrell Hall, Decatur Township Assistance, and the DPS #61 Phoenix II alternative school for teen moms which meets on our campus. Gift tags will be available in the Friendship Center beginning Sunday, November 18th. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, no later than Sunday, December 9th when they will be dedicated during our morning worship.

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.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Our Faith: Light or Heat?

Text: II Thessalonians 2:13-16

Charles Watkins

Baby Blessing Service Scheduled

A Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents service has been scheduled for Sunday, November 25th during both services. If you wish to have your infant or child included in the service, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Elderberries Meets November 14

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal, program and fellowship on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, November 14th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Baked Chicken and Dressing, Cinnamon Apple Rings, Green Beans and Pumpkin Cake! Following the meal, **Dennis Downey** will present a program entitled, *Got Milk?*, a history of Macon County Dairies and Antique Milk Bottles. 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, November 12th, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

Central Youth

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.

Summit Informational Meeting

Sunday, November 11th
9:30 a.m.

Youth attending Summit and their Parent(s) will gather for a brief meeting to share our plans and what to bring for the following weekend. Summit begins Friday evening, November 16th and ends Sunday morning, November 18th.

Sunday, November 18th Thanksgiving Basket Project

5:30-7 p.m.

Gather at the church to ride the bus to the Community Thanksgiving Basket Assembly which will be held at the former Eagles store on Rt. 36 East. We will help several groups from area churches assemble 3,300 food boxes for distribution before Thanksgiving. Last year we were finished packing 3,000 boxes in one hour!

Sunday, November 25th Cardboard Recycling 1:30 p.m.

Charles's Column

The General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, the **Reverend Dr. Sharon E. Watkins** gave the **Harold Watkins Lecture** on Leadership at National City Christian Church on April 20, 2007, which is here quoted in the **Charles Watkins** pastoral letter to you today. That's Watkins. Get it?

Recognizing that in the early 19th Century our new Christian movement swept across the North American Continent with a plea for reformation of the Christian Church in order to restore New Testament Christianity and thus achieve unity among all Christians, casting aside the denominational and party distinctions and labels that had grown up in 1800 years of bickering and disagreement and even war across the European Continent. By the middle of the 19th Century the "Christians" or "Disciples" constituted the fastest growing religious movement in our nation. But by the middle of the 20th Century, this movement fractured into at least two distinct groups: "One was more clearly focused on restoration of the ancient order of things—even if that meant separation from large parts of the Body of Christ. The other camp was more focused on seeking visible unity with the whole Body of Christ—even if it meant giving up some of the movement's cherished conclusions about proper New Testament practice. The unity group came to be known as Disciples."

"It was natural that by the mid-20th Century, Disciples were fully involved in the global ecumenical movement that had been active since the early part of the century and had really taken off after World War II. This movement was rooted in a worldwide commitment to mission which was understood as evangelism and service to people everywhere."

Just after the century's mid-point, the Disciples re-structured ourselves to be no longer a convention of congregations, but now truly one Church in three manifestations—general, regional, and congregational, The second General Minister and President of our Church Kenneth L. Teegarden (who ordained me back when he was regional minister in Texas), accepted the challenge of describing our church in fifty words or fewer. It was adapted and became our church's identity statement (#466 in your *Chalice Hymnal*.)

Now for the 21st Century, Dr. Watkins asserts that it's "time for us to do it again, time for our movement to reclaim a passion for the unity of the church as a sign to the world of the power of God's reconciliation in Christ, time to set a priority in seeking the oneness of all Christians as the framework for our engagement of God's mission in a divided world; time for our movement for wholeness to bloom again."As we get clear on who we are, a new identity statement is being developed:

We are Disciples of Christ; a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

"Leaders for the new century will be steeped in our calling as Disciples. They will love God deeply and feel God's pain at the broken world, so different from God's intention made known in the reconciling life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

I couldn't agree more, and I want to be part of that. If you would like to read all of Dr. Watkins's excellent and inspiring address, just ask me for a copy.

Charles Watkins. Yes, that's Watkins.

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **York & Katie Powers** on the October 31st birth of their son, **Langston York Powers**.

Children's Christmas Workshop, December 8th

The Christian Education Department is sponsoring a Children's Christmas Workshop on Saturday, **December 8th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** for children ages 3 yrs. – 11 yrs. Children will be able to make Christmas gifts for their parents and siblings. Elves and helpers will be available to assist the children with their projects. Santa will also stop by for a visit. The cost for the workshop is \$5 per child. Plans are being made for a Parent's Day Out for children, birth to 11 yrs., beginning at noon and running until 4 p.m. Children will need to bring a lunch with them and will participate in games, advent activities and watch a holiday movie. Mark your calendar today and watch for your chance to register for the workshop in the Friendship Center.

Philadelphia Now Showing at Just Flicks

The next film in the Just Flicks series is *Philadelphia* starring Denzel Washington and Tom Hanks. This groundbreaking film will show Sunday, November 11 at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Mary Feltes will lead the discussion. And, we can count on the nice folk at First Presbyterian to have munchies on hand as well. Plan now to attend!

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

During National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 11-17, you are invited to *Fast to Feast* on Thursday, November 15 by giving up lunch and donating whatever you would have spent for lunch to one of our area food ministries so others can feast. Catholic Charities, Good Samaritan Inn, Northeast Community Fund and the Salvation Army are all local hunger fighting ministries. The documentary *Waging a Living* which addresses the issue of underemployment will be shown on November 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. Bring a non-perishable food item for admission to the film.

Young Adults to Gather for Dessert!

A gathering for young adults (18-30something) is scheduled for Wednesdays, November 14th and 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. We will share desserts, light and meaningful discussions, laughter and prayer. Join us! Childcare will be provided. RSVP with **Pastor Robert** at rbushey@cccdisciples.org

Youth Cardboard Pick Up

The Youth Cardboard Recycling Project for November will be **Sunday, November 25th** beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sign up this Sunday. 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. The cardboard recycling is **a service project, not a fundraiser** for our youth. We will schedule a pick up after Christmas.



Sunday, November 11, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Daniel Hinze,
Saxophone; Leslie Peart, Organ
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
5:00-Youth Group
6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian

Monday (12)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes
6:30-Boy Scouts, Great Hall/Disciple Rm

Tuesday (13)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:00-CADV, Disciple Room
6:00-Dorcas Group making soup,
Great Hall Kitchen

Wednesday (14)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
12:00-Central Singers
1:30-Low Vision Support, Disciple Rm.
5:30-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
6:30-Young Disciples, Parlor

Thursday (15)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:30-ChristCare, 290
4:00-6:00-Phoenix II Family Fun
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:30-Baby Talk Pre-K Family Fun,
Great Hall
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
6:45-Women's Ministry, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (16)

9:00-Trustees, Disciple Room

Saturday (17)

8:00-Dorcas Soup Assembly/ Delivery
10:00-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Counting On You

November 4

Worship Attendance 315
Sunday School Attendance 82

Serving Schedule—November 11, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Rebecca Johnston & Larry Pepper

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Jon French
Melinda Hawbaker
Karen McFadin
David Miller
Katie Miller
Janice Mitchell
Alex Otis
Andrew Rutherford
Gary Rutherford
Brittney Munos

Elders

Larry Otis
Bob Smith
Janet Lyman
Tom Spry
Shirley Swarthout
Chris Fagin
Mary Jane Oliver
Jan Baird
Julie Martin
Mary Jane Linton
Alternate: Jan Dobbs

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 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Carl Boline, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston

10:45 - Team 7 - Karen McFadin, Chad McFadin, Jon French, Jane French, Clyde Booher

Greeters:

8:15 - Dean & Janet Gray, Al & Chris Fagin

10:45 - Florence Bolin, Pamela Ferguson, Larry & Janet Thicksten

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Dean & Sue Simcox

Children's Worship: Teri Bushey

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

November 14 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

Nov. 12 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Nov. 13 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Nov. 14 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Nov. 15 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Nov. 16 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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 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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