



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, November 21, 2007

No. 47



## Music for a Merry Christmas!

Central's annual *Music for a Merry Christmas* Organ Concert will be on Sunday, December 9 at 4:30 p.m. featuring organist **Leslie Peart**.

This program of entertaining and meaningful music will enhance your Christmas spirit and delight all whom you invite to join you at the concert.

## Spirit of Christmas 2007

Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion is now underway! You may 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 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 are available in the Friendship Center. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, no later than Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> when they will be dedicated during our morning worship.

## Alternative Gift Giving Begins Sunday!

The Christian Action and Community Service Department invites you to participate in the Alternative Gift Giving program Sundays, November 25<sup>th</sup> & December 2<sup>nd</sup>. You are invited to make a tax-deductible donation to one of our seven worthy outreach organizations in honor of someone for the holiday season. This year you may also purchase alternative gifts in honor of your loved ones from Baby Talk, ChristCare Stitchers, DOVE, Good Samaritan Inn, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, and the Oasis Day Center for the homeless.

Here's how the program works: browse the gift opportunities in the Friendship Center, stop by the Alternative Gift Market near the West Entrance; make a donation in someone's name to one of our seven organizations; and we will provide you with a certificate or card to send to your loved one telling them of the wonderful gift you have made in their honor for the holidays. It is really that simple, and that hard to buy for person who has everything anybody could possibly want and more, is well taken care of! Plan now to make Alternative Gift Giving a part of your Christmas experience in 2007.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007**

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**You Can't Talk About That in Church!**

Text: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Robert Bushey

## Congregational Meeting

Congregation President **Mike Holbrook** will convene a quick meeting at the end of the single 10 a.m. service on December 2. The Church Council is recommending the first balanced budget for our church since 1997. All members are invited to cast a ballot following the meeting.

## Single Service on December 2

Both morning services will be combined on December 2 at 10 a.m. for the beginning of Advent and the Hanging of the Greens. The Fellowship Department invites each member to bring a plate of holiday treats to share following the service (*see page 3 of this newsletter for details*).

## Last Call for the Children's Christmas Pageant

Two rehearsals remain for our Christmas pageant for children ages 3 yrs.-11 yrs. It is not too late for your child to participate! Our next rehearsal is November 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-6:30 p.m. The pageant, which will take place on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Cardboard Recycling**  
**1:30-3:30 p.m.**

We will stop for a snack after our pick up! Dress appropriately for being outside.

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**7-8:30 p.m.**

Youth will meet in the Point for planning, prayer and fun.

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Youth Sponsored**  
**Parent's Day Out**

Central Youth will provide care and activities for children ages 3-11 yrs. from noon until 4 p.m. Youth are asked to sign up to work a two-hour shift.

### Children's Christmas Workshop, December 8<sup>th</sup>

The 2007 Children's Christmas Workshop will be open on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** 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. 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. Register for the workshop in the Friendship Center this Sunday.



## Robert's Reflections

By the time you receive this issue Thanksgiving Day will be past. Certainly many of you did not have to cook today, for the fridge is still packed with left-overs and you are not tired of eating from them yet. Some of you have already decorated your homes with bright lights and tinsel in anticipation of the special season to come. Some of you have traveled many miles to visit with relatives or maybe your home is still acting as a hotel for your cherished guests. Some of you may be hoarse from cheering or jeering during your favorite sporting event. And, many of you have already stood in long lines for the amazing deals that were advertised for the busiest shopping weekend of the year.

This weekend is one of the big annual "tests" that are presented to parents with children of any age, but especially with young children. There is more merchandise available today than in any other time in history. The possibilities seem endless. With billions of dollars spent on marketing to lure parents (through the incessant requests of our children) into buying the latest fad toys, we are met with decisions that are too often made impulsively and carelessly. How many presents does a child need for Christmas to be a special family memory? How much money should a parent spend on their children as they do their best to express their love for their children? Is it really okay to borrow money you simply do not have so that your child gets that new game system she always wanted, well at least for the past six weeks anyway? For some parents the answers to our Friday after Thanksgiving Quiz come easily based upon the examples that our own parents gave us, for others this is the most economically stressful time of the year. And, we haven't even explored appropriate gifts for spouses and other family members!

All of us face these often difficult decisions, and I do not claim to be an expert! Teri and I do work diligently throughout the year to keep the reins pulled in on our spending habits, especially when it comes to celebrating Christmas or birthdays with our boys. We work very hard to resist the temptation to buy yet another pack of collecting cards, toys or even candy at every check-out counter, even through tears and complaints. We set a very minimal budget for Christmas and we do our best to stick to it – even if that means a little disappointment along the way. Some of the greatest examples my parents gave me were that money and presents cannot buy love, that giving is more important than receiving and that you cannot make up for your shortcomings by buying bigger presents. So many young parents find themselves in over their heads with finances so quickly, simply because they were very rarely ever told "no" when they were children.

This Sunday we will celebrate Reign of Christ Sunday – no Advent doesn't start until December 2<sup>nd</sup> – and as we do, I pray that we will remember to whose kingdom we belong and to whom all honor and glory should be given. Perhaps if we keep that in our minds as we head out for the Early Bird sales on Saturday, we may just enjoy ourselves and what we are doing and why we are doing it in the first place. Then, go home and tell a child close to you how much you love them; it's better than anything you can wrap with pretty paper!

Peace & Joy,  
*Robert*

## “Tasting” Party on December 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Fellowship Department invites you to a tasting party following the single Hanging of the Greens Service on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. After the 10 a.m. service and congregational meeting, we invite you to stay a while, visit with others from your church family and enjoy goodies throughout the Friendship Center, Welcome Center and Library. We don't often have a chance for members from both services to mix and mingle so this provides a wonderful opportunity! Please bring a finger food to share, place it on the table in the Volunteer Room (in the office) before the worship service. Committee members will take care of refrigeration and setting things out on the tables for everyone to enjoy following the service.

## Final Episode of PBS Series “Walking the Bible” This Sunday!

We invite you to join us in the Disciples Room at 9:30 Sunday morning for the final episode of the PBS series, *Walking the Bible*. This week's session is entitled *Toward the Promised Land: Forty Years in the Desert*. Join us Sunday to catch the last of this interesting and informative series!

## Volunteers Needed for H2O

Our One Church One School ministry with Hope Academy is seeking volunteers to help with Central's after school program H2O, which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at the school. We are currently serving twenty students from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. 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 H2O program.

## Notes of Thanks Received

Thanks to the group of angels that disguise themselves by being called the Dorcas Disciples. My heart was touched again at this Thanksgiving time by your thinking of me and bringing me one of the tasty luncheons which you prepared. The soup and pie were delicious.

Your Friend in Christ,  
**Roe Skidmore**

To the Dorcas Disciples,

Thank you, so much, for the delicious meal you brought to us last Saturday. We sure appreciated it.

God bless you all,  
**John & Alice Paradee**

## Welcome New Member



Welcome to **Amanda Littrell** who became a new member on Sunday, November 18 by Confession of Faith. The Littrell family, including sons, **Zachary** and **Aidan** live at 35 Kater Drive, Decatur, IL 62521.



## Sunday, November 25, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Meagan Hinze, Flute;  
Mark Byrum, Oboe; Marilyn Ward,  
Piano  
8:15-Central Singers  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir, Organ,  
Flute, Oboe  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Cindy Soebbing  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
1:30-Youth cardboard pick up

## Monday (26)

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

## Tuesday (27)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School

## Wednesday (28)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:15-Stephen Ministers, 290  
5:30-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal,  
Great Hall Stage  
6:30-Young Disciples, Parlor

## Thursday (29)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:30-ChristCare, 290  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (30)

6:00-Staff Christmas Party, Rusty's  
**Saturday (December 1)**

9:30-Dorcas Brunch, Carol Graham's  
10:00-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal,  
Great Hall Stage  
2:00-Greens Preparation, Disciple  
Room

## Counting On You

### November 18

Worship Attendance ..... 296  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 71

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## Serving Schedule—November 25, 2007

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mary Jane Oliver, Mike Holbrook

### Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

**St. Mary's Hospital:** Becky Johnston

**Decatur Memorial:** Keith Backes

### 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 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Greeters:

8:15 - David & Rosalie Poland, Jim & Pamela Bednar

10:45 - Brett & Kelly Swallow, David & Katie Miller

### Parish Nurse:

Cindy Soebbing

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

John & Carol Graham

### Preparation of Communion:

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

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

### November 28 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

### Hosts:

Nov. 26 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams

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

Nov. 27 9:00-12:30 - Nancy Taylor

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Nov. 28 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Nov. 29 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Nov. 30 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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  
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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