



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, January 9, 2008

No. 2

Millikin University Chamber Chorale Presents Concert at CCC

The Millikin University Chamber Chorale will present a concert at Central Christian Church on Sunday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

One of five traditional choral ensembles at Millikin, Chamber Chorale is a highly select mixed choir of 40 voices dedicated to the study, performance and recording of "gems" from the standard choral repertoire. As one of the top touring choirs at Millikin, Chamber Chorale has built a solid reputation for choral excellence. The Choir has been praised across the midwest for its sense of ensemble and choral blend. Under the direction of Dr. Guy Forbes, Chamber Chorale is in its eighth year and excited to, once again, be touring the American Heartland.

Chamber Chorale's tour repertoire features compositions by William Byrd, Herbert Howells, and Zdenek Lukas, as well as works from contemporary American composers Randall Stroepe and Terry Schlenker. Their program also includes popular carol, folk songs and spiritual arrangements.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
The Baptism of the Lord

Text: Matthew 3:13-17
Charles Watkins

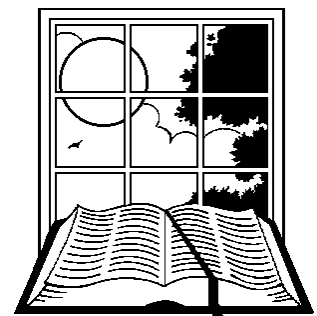
Last Sunday to Register for Bible Study

This Sunday is your last chance to register for an all new Bible Study set to begin on Sunday, January 20th. The recently published ten-week course entitled *Experiencing the Bible Again for the First Time* by contemporary biblical and Jesus scholars Marcus Borg and Tim Scorer will be offered each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall. Cost for the course is \$10 per book payable to Central on the first day of the course. **Pastor Robert** will lead the multi-media course, which surveys the Old and New Testaments through the lenses of the most current scholarship. Sign up this Sunday and prepare to experience the Bible as a fresh new resource for your faith journey. Watch for information soon on another new course from the same series entitled: *Experiencing Jesus Again for the First Time* beginning on Wednesday, February 6th.

Cheerful Recyclers!



Central Youth collected approximately 140 cubic feet of cardboard from 14 households for recycling as part of their non-fundraising service project last Saturday. We will collect again in early February.





Central Youth

Sunday, January 13th

**Regular Meeting
4:30-6:30 p.m.**

Sunday, January 20th

**Just Flicks Film
In the Heat of the Night
6:30 p.m.**

Sunday, January 27th

**Winter Road Trip!
4:00-8:30 p.m.**

Central Youth will board the church bus for a Road Trip to Springfield to visit Kicks Buffet & Family Entertainment Center. A large arcade and indoor go-karts await! Youth will need to bring at least \$10 with them. Dinner from the buffet is included. Reserve your seat on the bus by Sunday, January 20th by contacting Pastor Robert.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to **Mark Beal** for helping with lights and sound and to **Cathy Ash** for helping backstage for the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 23rd!

Thank you to **HH & Hilary Critchfield** and **Dean & Sue Simcox** for helping with delivery of the Spirit of Christmas Gifts!

Charles's Column

In most organizations, both business and not-for-profit, long tenure of staff is a sign of health and vitality. When people work for the same employer for a long time, there is a shared institutional memory, a sense that the organization treats its employees fairly, and an efficiency that comes from staff members' knowing their work and their "customers" pretty well.

Central Christian Church of Decatur is marking some significant anniversaries of staff service these days. Pastor **Robert Bushey** completes his tenth year of committed service on Central's ministry team on January 16, while Pastor **Don Martin's** tenth anniversary with us is on January 28. Caretaker **Rudi Descaro's** twentieth anniversary of sharing ministry with us here is coming up on January 29. Congratulations and expressions of appreciation to these super servants of God are in order!

Church Secretary **Pat Beals** completed her tenth year of excellent service to our church last July 14, and organist **Leslie Peart** passed the ten year mark on September 14. No one is more surprised than Les that he has presided over worship at our organ console for more than a decade. Such a wonderful tenure was not actually part of his plan when he started commuting to Central from Grand Rapids every week-end in the fall of 1997 before he completed his move to Springfield. In these ten years, Les has never missed a Sunday because of illness, and he has never been late for a wedding or a funeral nor begun practice at the keyboard in the sanctuary on Sunday later than 7:30 a.m. in the whole decade-plus regardless of road conditions between here and his home in our state's capital city.

Pastor **Gretchen Barron's** tenth anniversary with us is coming up April 1, which will be here before we know it. To understand the importance of all these anniversaries, you need to keep in mind that the average tenure of a minister in a Disciples of Christ congregation in North America is three-and-a-half years.

Each of these anniversaries across the recent months should be celebrated and commended. Of course, there are others who have served our congregation even longer. The dean of the staff is **Valerie Rozanski**, the administrative assistant in the front office who began her service at Central more than twenty-two years ago. **Dean Hadden** and I marked our fifteenth anniversaries on staff last year, and even the more junior of our colleagues are not novices at their work: **Charles Wallace, Sr.** has worked at Central seven years, and **David Flanders** has completed three years serving God and us on our congregational staff.

I am so grateful for the devotion, commitment, and effectiveness of each of these who are serving us and the Lord for a wonderful, long time. And it would be just dandy if you picked one member of Central's staff this week to send a personal note of appreciation for devoted and faithful service to Jesus and our church. It is terrific for all of us on staff to be in ministry with you!

Charles Watkins

Offering Envelopes

Did you receive a set of numbered offering envelopes for your gifts to Central in 2008? If your set did not arrive, please phone the church office so we can send your set this week. Using your numbered envelopes really helps the volunteers in the financial office. Please use your numbered offering envelopes this year whenever you make a gift to the church! And thank you for your gifts that keep your church strong and effective.

Central's Transportation Ministry

During 2007 Central was blessed with the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible bus with a lower step, center aisle and comfortable seating for fourteen passengers. Since the purchase of the vehicle, the number of riders has grown, and we are grateful to be able to safely transport folks to Central for worship and other events. With the increase in riders, we are in need of drivers and assistants.

Drivers: must be 25 yrs. or over, possess a valid Illinois driver's license, and participate in mandatory safety and operating training provided by the church. Illinois State law does not require a special driving permit or class of license to operate our new bus. Approved drivers are covered by the church's insurance. Assistants: must be 16 yrs. or over, possess a valid Illinois driver's license, and participate in mandatory safety and operating training provided by the church. Assistants primarily help the driver with loading and unloading of passengers.

If you are interested in driving or being an assistant, please contact **Bruce Williams** at wildwoodpetclinic@yahoo.com or **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336. We will be glad to arrange a training session for you.

Plan Ahead for a Life-Changing Mission Opportunity in 2008!

Central Christian Church and our sister congregation, Prairie Avenue Christian Church, are planning a third trip to the New Orleans area. Our mission delegation will leave Decatur on Saturday, April 19th and return to Decatur Sunday, April 27th. During our week in Slidell, LA, we will work with local Disciples Churches and the North Shore Emergency Relief Agency, helping to rebuild individual homes that were destroyed in the 2005 hurricanes. More details and registration forms will be available soon.

H2O Update

During December, Hope Homework Oasis, Central's after school ministry with students at Hope Academy, received a "Thumbs Up!" recognition from the Editorial Board of the Herald & Review and a letter of thanks from Senator Frank Watson for the work our volunteers are doing to help students achieve. A meeting for current volunteers and prospective volunteers is scheduled Wednesday, January 16th at 5:30 p.m. in the Disciple Room. H2O is looking for volunteers to help when we are back in session beginning January 24th. H2O assists students from 2nd-8th grade with homework completion, skill practice, tutoring, and character development. During the first semester we worked with 30 students and we anticipate the same number this semester. H2O meets at Hope Academy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45-5:00 p.m. Activities volunteers help with large motor activities in the gym and snack in the cafeteria and arrive by 3:30 p.m. Tutors and Homework helpers arrive by 4 p.m. and help students in the school Library and computer lab. If you are interested in helping with H2O, contact **Pastor Robert** for more information.

Note of Thanks Received

To all the wonderful people of Central Christian who ministered to our father, Frank Beaman, in the past months and supported our family with your prayers and many kindnesses, we give our heartfelt thanks.

Kathy Hurst & Judy Beaman



Sunday, January 13, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Brenda Clarke, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
4:30-Millikin Chamber Choir Rehearsal
4:30-6:30-Youth Group meeting
5:30-Millikin Chamber Choir Meal,
Great Hall
7:30-Millikin Chamber Choir Concert,
Sanctuary

Monday (14)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room &
Great Hall
6:30-CC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (15)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
5:15-Personnel Dept., Parlor

Wednesday (16)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-H2O Volunteers, Disciple Room
6:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room

Thursday (17)

10:00-Alanon, 212
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Counting On You

January 6

Worship Attendance264
Sunday School Attendance 65

Ladies, Mark your Calendars!

Our annual Women's Retreat will be held March 28-29, 2008 at Camp One-Way, near Niantic. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this inspiring and relaxing time. Registration information will be available soon!

Serving Schedule—January 13, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Wayne Honeycutt, Bruce Campbell

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Gail Prince	Bruce Campbell
Larry Prince	Mary Jane Linton
Larry Chapman	Janet Lyman
Jan Patrick	Connie Bordner
Charlie Ropp	Mary Jane Oliver
Charlotte Ballance	Mike Holbrook
Jarrett Bednar	Shirley Swarthout
Jane Davis	Kevin Miller
Andy Fulk	John Graham
Theresa Fulk	Felicity Williams
	Alternate: Larry Otis

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Greg Carter, Jared Carter, Megan Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Carol McClure, 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, Erik Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Daniel Hinze, David Martin, Julie Martin, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Lawrence Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal, Charlotte Lyon

Greeters:

8:15 - Steve & Juanita Ballance, Rita Woods, Barbara Beyer

10:45 - Teri & Joshua Bushey, Bruce & Carol Stoddard

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Brett, Kelly, Ashley & Colin Swallow

Preparation of Communion:

Carole & Francis Songer, Darla Otis, Mary Waldmier

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

January 16 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Jan. 14 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Jan. 15 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Jan. 16 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Jan. 17 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Jan. 18 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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