



# The Central Visitor

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

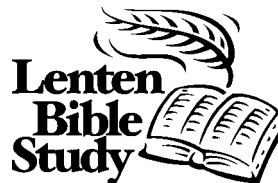
Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, January 16, 2008

No. 3

## Time to Register for Lenten Study

This Sunday is your first chance to register for an all new Bible Study set to begin on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. The recently published ten-week course entitled *Experiencing Jesus Again for the First Time*, by contemporary biblical and Jesus scholars Marcus Borg and Tim Scorer, will be offered each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Disciple Room. 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 life and teachings of Jesus through the lenses of the most current scholarship. Sign up this Sunday and prepare to experience Jesus anew as you journey through Lent 2008.



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

**Retail God**

Text: John 1:29-34

Charles Watkins

## 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 additional help with our transportation ministry. 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** or **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336. We will be glad to arrange a training session for you.

## Ladies, Mark your Calendars!

You won't want to miss our annual Women's Retreat, March 28-29 at Camp One-Way, near Niantic.

Global Mission Partner from Honduras, Linda Hanson, will be our retreat leader. Linda is excited to bring us the stories of the Honduras women, along with a taste of the music, worship and culture of this beautiful land. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this inspiring and relaxing time. Registration begins February 3<sup>rd</sup>!



## Giving Acknowledgments

### Mailed Monday

The financial office has prepared individual statements acknowledging gifts to Central in 2007. If you have not yet received the church's grateful acknowledgment of all your gifts for last year, please phone the church office so another copy can be sent to you.

## Super Subs for Hunger

The Youth of Central will be receiving orders for Super Bowl Subs beginning Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Our Foot-long Subs will sell for \$10 each on white or wheat bread with three meat choices and choice of toppings. Six-inch subs will be available for \$5. Order forms will be in the worship bulletin this week with delivery of our famous Subs on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Profit from this annual youth fundraiser will be given to Heifer International to help eliminate hunger throughout the world.





## Central Youth

**Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Just Flicks Film**  
***In the Heat of the Night***  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**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 20<sup>th</sup> by contacting **Pastor Robert**.

**Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Super Sub Shop**  
**10 a.m. - Noon**

**Not Too Early  
to Plan for**

**Summer Camps!**

**Camp Dates for 2008**

Mark your calendars and make plans to make camp a part of your summer!

**Genesis Camp**

for Grades 2-3 - June 4-6

**Shalom Camp**

for Grades 9-12 - June 9-14

**Koinonia Camp**

for Grades 3-8 - June 23-28

**ADDaM Camp**

for Grades 8-12 - June 22-29

## Charles's Column

At 7:05 on Sunday morning, it's time for the final walk through to be sure everything is ready for your arrival at Central. The heat was turned on by the Trance Tracer computer five hours earlier, and all areas are comfortably warm, though the Friendship Center (so close to the two new Lochinvar boilers below) is a little uncomfortably warm. The work lights are on in the sanctuary, and the rich, red carpet stretches up the long center aisle with not a speck of lint upon it and still showing the marks of the vacuum cleaner and no footprints.

The worship bulletins are folded in groups of fifty and the large-print bulletins are stapled. The personal hearing-assistance devices are arranged on the cabinet next to the large-print hymnals. The computer that controls the lights has not timed out this morning, so we may get through the service without any special and unplanned effects. The sound mixer is lit, and each of the microphones is in place. The organist is quietly playing through the hymns and service music so that even this walk through feels like a prayer.

Pews have been reserved for deacons and elders, and the brass trays for communion are all in place both fore and aft and up in the balcony. The microphones test well, and the fans are on for the choir in their hot robes. All the lovely decorations for Advent/Christmas have been carefully stored for another year.

One of our Caretakers has been on duty since 5:00 a.m., releasing the alarm system, turning on lights and heat, unlocking doors, making sure side-walks are clear and making final arrangements to be sure the entire building is ready for you.

It would be a challenge to count all the people who have been at work since last Sunday to make sure everything is prepared for you to enter this holy place to worship God. Singers and caretakers, secretaries and ministers, deacons and elders, musicians and artists, ushers and greeters, and from time to time the snow removal contractor, have given their best efforts to make sure that everything is right and ready for you.

With all that careful preparation, it would really be a shame if you don't show up this Sunday. All things are ready! Come to the feast!

*Charles Watkins*

## Central's Largest Benefactors

On the last day of 2007, Central Christian Church received the final distribution from the estates of **Robert C. & Betty Campbell**, bringing the total of their recent gifts to our church close to half a million dollars. During Betty's life, she gave Central \$150,000, establishing an endowment fund for our church at the Community Foundation of Decatur, enlarging the church campus for the first time in the twenty-first century, and providing funds for a concert series and landscaping around the church. After Betty's death, the trust Robert Campbell had established for her support was divided, with one-third of all that remained coming to our church. These latest gifts are being divided according to our congregation's policy on undesignated bequests with one-third going to the building fund, one-third going to the permanent memorial fund, and one-third going to outreach ministries both global and local. Bob and Betty have made a difference for our church forever. Have you remembered Central in your will?

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Lynn (Marquand) Reiter, Gola & Larry Katt**, and **Joy & Ed Adams** following the death of **Jerry Reiter** in Las Vegas.....and to **Emmy Williams** and family following the January 16<sup>th</sup> death of Emmy's husband, **Jim Williams**.

Congratulations to **Brian & Kirsten Kilday** on the January 7<sup>th</sup> birth of their son, **Declan James**. Declan is also welcomed home by his 2 yr. old sister, **Hannah**. Proud grandparents are **Bill & LeEtta Bass**, and great-aunt is **Donna Dash**.....to **Angelique (Flanders) Morgason & Gary Fairbrother** following the January 11<sup>th</sup> birth of their son, **Gavin Aditsan Fairbrother** and to **Ginger Flanders & Bryan Morgan** on the January 12<sup>th</sup> birth of their daughter of **McKegan Elizabeth Morgan**. Proud grandparents are **John & Becky Flanders**, great-grandmother is **Barbara Flanders**, and great-uncle **David Flanders**.

## Notes of Thanks Received

I would like to say a special thank you to the ministers who visited me during my recent hospitalization at Decatur Memorial.

Thank you also to the congregation for cards, their prayers and good wishes.

Sincerely,  
**Mildred Upchurch**

## Heat is on at Just Flicks, January 20<sup>th</sup>!

This Sunday, January 20, the Just Flicks Film Series resumes with the 1967 classic *In the Heat of the Night* starring Sidney Portier. This film was nominated for seven Academy Awards and received five Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Rod Steiger), Best Screenplay (Stirling Silliphant), Best Sound, and Best Film Editing. Surprisingly, Portier was not even nominated, although this may be his best-known role. Set in the fictional town of Sparta, Mississippi, *Heat* is the story of Southern racism. Portier portrays Virgil Tibbs, a black Philadelphia detective who stumbles on a murder case. Tibbs is falsely arrested, slapped, and assaulted by hooligans as he pursues the case. The film is set to begin at 6 p.m. and **Fred Spannaus** will lead a brief discussion afterwards.



## H2O Volunteers Needed

Hope Homework Oasis, Central's after school ministry with students at Hope Academy, is looking for volunteers to help when we are back in session beginning on January 24<sup>th</sup>. H2O assists students from 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Sunday, January 20, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Connie Bordner & Karen Driver  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jeannie Backes  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
6:00-Just Flicks, Great Hall

## Monday (21)

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Church & Office Closed  
6:30-CC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

## Tuesday (22)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
7:00-Dorcas, Disciple Room

## Wednesday (23)

12:00-Central Singers  
5:30-Stephen Ministers, home of  
Linda Kuhns

## Thursday (24)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Counting On You

### January 13

Worship Attendance .....270  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 64

## Offering Envelopes

Did you receive a set of numbered offering envelopes for your gifts in 2008? If your set did not arrive, please phone the church office (428-4336) so we can send your set this week. Using your numbered envelopes really helps the volunteers in the financial office. Please use your envelopes and throw away any number envelopes left over from last year!

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## Serving Schedule—January 20, 2008

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Shirley Swarouth, Sue Ann Cain

### Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Shelby Larrick, Jan Patrick, Charlie Ropp, Nicole Ropp, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, Max Sperry  
10:45 - Team 4 - Kevin Otis, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Claudia Curry, Jon French, Melinda Hawbaker, Scott Hawbaker, Dee Hill, Bob Linton, Karen McFadin, David Miller, Katie Miller, Alex Otis, Andrew Otis, Kevin Ann Otis, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Ushers:

8:15 - Team 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Brenda Tankersley, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston, Betty Scott, David Scott  
10:45 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

### Greeters:

8:15 - Jim, Pamela, & Jarett Bednar, David & Connie Shields  
10:45 - Randy, Shirley & Jessica Brooks, Marylu Lyman

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Randy, Shirley & Jessica Brooks

**Parish Nurse:** Jeannie Backes

### Acolyte:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash  
10:45 - Keith Backes

### Preparation of Communion:

Carole & Francis Songer, Darla Otis, Mary Waldmier

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams  
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing  
10:45 service only - Karen Baird

### January 23 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

### Hosts:

Jan. 21 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Church & Office Closed  
Jan. 22 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd  
Jan. 23 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith  
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew  
Jan. 24 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry  
12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon  
Jan. 25 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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**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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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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