



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, February 6, 2008

No. 6

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, February 13th!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal and program and delightful fellowship together on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, February 14th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's "guest chef" is Paula Hovey. Paula will be cooking up Beef Stew, Corn Bread and dessert for us, all for just \$4 – it is truly the best deal in town! Following the meal, Marilyn Mertz will ask "Do You Have the Write Stuff?" as she presents a program on handwriting analysis. To sign up, you will need to call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming 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, February 11th, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

Fellowship of Prayer

A collection of Lenten devotional meditations has been compiled by *DisciplesWorld* editor Verity Jones and published for your spiritual growth through these forty days leading up to Easter. The Fellowship of Prayer booklets are ready for you to pick up in the narthex on the table below the free Bibles display rack where quarterly devotional booklets are always available.

Registration Continues for Our Women's Retreat!

This is shaping up to be our best retreat ever! Linda Hanson, our retreat leader and Mission Partner to Honduras, is full of all kinds of ideas, information, stories and music to share with us when we gather as Sisters in Solidarity: From Illinois to Honduras and Back! The retreat will be held March 28-29 at Camp One-Way, near Niantic. More information and registration forms are available in the Friendship center. Cost for the retreat is \$80 and includes all materials, overnight accommodations and 4 meals! Limited scholarships are available. Pick up your registration form this week and return it soon with your fee. Deadline for registration is March 9th! Join us for this inspiring and relaxing experience as we celebrate our sisterhood with others around the world!

Invitation for Liturgists

Each Sunday the call to worship, the invocation, the Lord's Prayer, the offertory invitation and prayer of dedication are led by a volunteer liturgist from the congregation. Normally a liturgist is asked to serve only one Sunday each year, and we have an excellent corps of dependable and capable worship leaders, but there is always room for new volunteers. Would you be willing to lead the liturgy for both morning services once in 2008? Please call the church office (428-4336) and give Pat Beals permission to invite you for a Sunday this spring.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**If You Have Love for
One Another**

Text: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Gretchen Barron

Paths of Glory

Now Showing at Just Flicks

Just Flicks moves to First Presbyterian Church this Sunday, February 10th for a 6:00p.m. viewing of the film *Paths of Glory* starring Kirk Douglas and directed by Stanley Kubrick. The classic film depicts a story of the horrifying dynamics of war, made at the dawn of World War II in 1940. Historian and film expert Mark Sorensen will shed insight and lead the discussion following the film. Light refreshments will be served.

Informational Meeting for Mission Trip to New Orleans – February 11th

Central Christian Church and our sister congregation, Prairie Avenue Christian Church, are planning a third trip to New Orleans, April 20-27th. An informational meeting in the Friendship Center is scheduled for Monday, February 11th at 7:30 p.m. for all persons who think they may be interested in attending. Members of previous trips will be there to share experiences and photographs and answer questions. Registration and information forms are now available in the Friendship Center. If you are interested in the trip but cannot attend the informational meeting, please let Pastors Gretchen or Robert know of your interest so we can keep you informed of new developments.

Central Youth

Sunday, February 10th
Cardboard Pick-Up
1:30-3PM

Dress appropriately for being outside!

Saturday, February 16th
11:00AM – 2:00PM

Central Youth will assist the Hunger Relief Serving Team at the Good Samaritan Inn

Summer Church 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

Children's Underwear Collection

Can you imagine what it would be like to be a child and not have underwear that fit you or were without exceptional wear? During the month of February, the Christian Action & Community Service Department is sponsoring an underwear drive for the Dove Clothing Room for Children located at Prairie Avenue Christian Church. New children's underwear of all sizes are needed. We will collect new children's underwear each Sunday during February. Help us gift a gift of love to our community's under-resourced children.

Gretchen's Gleanings

It's difficult for me to believe that soon I will observe my tenth anniversary at Central. TEN YEARS!!! Yikes – that's the longest I've ever lived and worked anywhere in my adult life. Ten years of watching children grow up, sharing in ministry together, joyfully welcoming new faces into our church family, tearfully saying good-bye to friends and loved ones. Ten years of worship together, prayers, sermons, weddings and funerals, baptisms, meetings, and Fellowship dinners. Ten years of trying new ideas, initiating new programs, putting some programs to rest, striving to find relevant, meaningful ways to equip Central members to live out their faith and calling.

Shortly after I arrived in Decatur a decade ago, I was whisked away, along with Carol McClure, to a week-long intensive Stephen Leader Training Course. With the exception of one free afternoon and evening (in which we got on a wrong bus heading out of Orlando and ended up walking back into town – but that's another story), Carol and I were immersed in morning-to-night training sessions in all things Stephen Ministry. We actually took the entire 50-hour course in that one-week, along with additional sessions filled with information needed to administer and grow Stephen Ministry at Central.

Prior to coming to Central, I really didn't know much about Stephen Ministry. I quickly learned it is a system of training and nurturing committed, caring and compassionate members of the congregation to reach out to those in need and become Christian caregivers. Each Stephen Minister completes fifty hours of training. During the training sessions, trainees are given the tools they need to become effective Christian caregivers to others who are struggling with a variety of life issues and transitions – grief, divorce, loneliness, relocation, hospitalization, terminal illness, loss of independence, unemployment, just to name some. We explore things like listening, feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, and when to refer someone to a professional for additional care. We learn about community resources and programs available for those struggling with a variety of issues. We pray together, share together, and support each other. Once training is completed, Stephen Ministers are commissioned and linked, one-on-one with care receivers, members of the church (or outside the church) who have agreed to let a Stephen Minister meet with them and walk with them through their struggles. Most of these "caring" relationships are fairly short-term in nature, a few weeks or months at the most. Some situations require more long-term care and our Stephen Ministers continue to give support, encouragement and comfort for the long haul. In addition, Stephen Ministers actively participate in monthly continuing education, support and accountability sessions.

As a pastor, I am so grateful that Central is a Stephen Ministry congregation. When I know members are struggling, I am able to offer them the option of having a Stephen Minister help them through their difficult time. It becomes an extension of the limited pastoral care I am able to give and one more level of care and support that we are able to offer to those in need. For the care receiver, their Stephen Minister often becomes a very important person in their life that not only helps them through a difficult time, but also remains a true friend forever. Stephen Ministry provides an excellent way for some members to use their gifts and to live out their faith through caring for others. It is a win-win situation both for those who need help and support and for those who desire to use their gifts of compassion and caring in service to others.

I am proud of Central's Stephen Ministers and the ways they touch all our lives with their gifts and compassion and commitment. I hope you will join us this Sunday as we celebrate Stephen Ministry in our congregation and learn how we can participate more fully – as care-receivers and caregivers – in this vital ministry.

Blessings, *Gretchen*

News From the Pews.....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Mildred Upchurch** following the January 31st death of her brother, *Herschel Miller* in Gun Barrel City, Texas, and to family of the Rev. **Roy Miller** following his February 7th death in Urbana, IL. The Rev. Miller, a former member of Central, served several congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL/WI including our churches in Oreana and Lovington. Roy and his family also served as missionaries to Paraguay from 1958-1972. Roy was a member of Community Christian Church in Urbana, IL.

We Want YOUR Story!

Many of you have read the collection of writings by Central members, "Our Journey of Faith". In this little booklet, Central members share with us some parts of their faith stories – how they came to know Christ, how they've been involved in mission and ministry, how they came to Central and what it's meant for them. If you haven't had a chance to read this inspiring collection, they are available for you in the Friendship center. Now, we want to hear (and read) YOUR story. Tell us something about your faith, something about your journey, something about the struggles you've overcome and the hope you have for the future. We hope to make Vol. 2 of the collection available soon. Try to limit your submission to around 250 words (or half a single-spaced typewritten page). You may submit your story to the church by e-mail (preferred) at central@cccdisciples.org (please put "Faith Journey" in the subject line) or by dropping it by the church office. Thank you for sharing YOUR story!

Good Samaritan Inn Monday Crew

Central volunteers prepare and serve meals at the Good Samaritan Inn the second Monday of every month. As many as 400 home cooked, hot meals may be served to our most vulnerable neighbors. Other volunteers from Central provide freshly baked cakes throughout the year to be served for dessert. If you would like to join our Central Good Samaritan Inn Monday Crew or help by providing cakes, please, contact Judy Ford at 875-1538.

Volunteers for ISAT Proctoring Needed

Hope Academy administrators and teachers are requesting volunteers to help out during the Illinois Standardized Achievement Test days at the school. Last year several members of Central volunteered and their presence was a great help to the students. The ISAT tests allow accommodations for students with special needs to be aided by a trained proctor. We hope to provide several volunteer proctors during ISATs the first week in March. A brief training will be provided by the school principal prior to the tests (date and time to be announced). If you have some free time between 9:30AM and 3:30PM, you may be a great help to the school as we work to help each student reach their full potential and achieve at their ability. Contact Pastor Robert if you are interested in volunteering.



Sunday, February 10, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Lucien Smith, Baritone,
Carol Graham, 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, 250-270
11:50-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
1:30-3:00-Youth Cardboard Pickup
6:00-Just Flicks, 1st Presbyterian

Monday (11)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-Women's Retreat Planning, VR
6:30-CACS Dept., 290
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room &
Great Hall
7:30-Mission Trip Information Meeting,
Friendship Center

Tuesday (12)

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

Wednesday (13)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
6:00-Shepherding Dept., Volunteer
Room
6:30-Jesus Study, Disciple Room

Thursday (14)

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

Saturday (16)

8:00-Hunger Relief Task Force, Great
Hall Kitchen
11:00-Hunger Relief Serving Team,
Good Samaritan Inn

Counting On You

February 3

Worship Attendance 262
Sunday School Attendance 63

Serving Schedule—February 10, 2008

Elders:

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

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Christine Lyman-Harm
Daniel Hinze
Kelly Swallow
David Martin
Ron Oliver
Dave Phillips
Al Fagin
Nita Phillips
Steve Swarthout
Kathy Thornton

Elders

Cindy Soebbing
Jan Dobbs
Brett Swallow
Kevin Wilmot
Wayne Honeycutt
Randy Brooks
Chris Fagin
Keith Backes
Jo Carter
Rebecca Johnston
Alternate: Claudia Quigg

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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos, Willie Birkhead

10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Capt., Marilyn Blank, Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Dick Cain, Sue Ann Cain

Greeters:

8:15 - Don & Brenda Tankersley, Dean & Janet Gray

10:45 - Barb Tyler, Mary Boyle, Clyde & Jean Booher

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Jessica Brooks, Alexis Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Stephen Ministers

Preparation of Communion:

Suzie Miller, Jim & Myra Hinze, Mark & Nancy McAfee

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

February 13 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Ruby Agnew

Hosts:

Feb. 11 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle

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

Feb. 12 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Feb. 13 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Feb. 14 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Feb. 15 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance

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

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

