



The Central Visitor

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

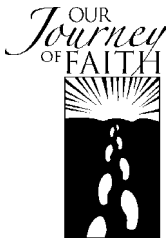
Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, February 20, 2008

No. 8

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!



Dorcas Women Meet February 26

Women of Central are invited to the next meeting of the Dorcas Disciple Women on Tuesday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the Disciple Room. Besides good food and fellowship, **Charles Watkins** will be sharing on our theme for the evening, "*Seating Arrangements at God's Table – opening our minds to a new way of being the church together.*" The New Church Ministry mission in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrates that as Disciples, we embrace our differences while celebrating our similarities...our belief in unity and love for Christ. Our General Assembly in Fort Worth last summer announced some exciting visions for the future.

Come and share the possibilities for the ministry of Dorcas!

Deepening Our Spirituality

Currently, nearly fifty members of our congregation are engaged in two courses based on books by **Dr. Marcus Borg**, Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University. Dr. Borg's many books include *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, *Jesus: A New Vision*. Recently, Dr. Borg co-authored with John Dominic Crossan, *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem* in 2006 and *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Birth* in 2007. On Saturday, April 5th, Dr. Borg will present two lectures at the First United Methodist Church in Evanston, IL. **Pastor Robert** has more information including registration forms and would be delighted for you to travel with him to hear Dr. Borg in person on April 5th. Please, let Pastor Robert know of your interest in going by February 29th.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Scandal at the Well

Text: John 4:5-15

Charles Watkins

Vocal and Organ Music Concert - Friday, March 14, 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to a **Friday Concert** presented by **Elaine Pearce** and **Elsa Bakkum** in the sanctuary of Central Christian Church. Elaine is the younger sister of **Don Martin**. Elaine and Elsa have collaborated on several concerts here in Illinois and in Ontario. They will present a variety of music that is sure to please, so mark your calendars for Friday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.

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!



Central Youth

Sunday, February 24th
4:30-6:00 p.m.

We will gather at the church for games, planning and prayer.

Supper will be included!

Sunday, March 2nd
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Bowling at Pla Mor Lanes

\$6 per person

Open to Children and Youth
Grades 3-12

Younger Siblings may attend when accompanied by a parent.

Sunday, March 9th
Movie Night

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Two movies to choose between! Details coming soon.

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

Charles's Column

As we make our annual Week of Compassion offering at Central, I want to share with you part of a recent letter from **Johnny Wray**, Minister of the Week of Compassion in Indianapolis. Johnny writes:

"Later this month thousands of Disciples members and friends across the U.S. and Canada will begin making their gifts to the 2008 Week of Compassion Offering. So far, we have been deeply encouraged by the very significant number of requests for additional materials and the many positive comments on the 2008 resources. This week's vicious weather that brought a swarm of deadly tornadoes to the South and more flooding to northern Indiana certainly serves as a reminder of why our offerings are so important to the church's disaster and development ministry fund. Indeed, a quick look at where WOC dollars are working in the world since the beginning of a new year – only a little more than a month old - underscores that.

"Consider that, through Week of Compassion, Disciples in 2008 are responding to severe winter weather in El Salvador, China and Afghanistan; flood relief and recovery in Mexico, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, India and the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Java; assistance to uprooted and displaced persons in Uganda, Somalia, Afghanistan, Syria, Jordan and Iraq; critical medical needs in the Dominican Republic; a cyclone in Bangladesh; and staggering humanitarian needs from violence and strife in Kenya and Darfur.

"Closer to home, WOC is responding to flood relief and recovery in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Texas; severe winter weather in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Michigan; wildfires in California and Texas; hurricane recovery and rebuilding in Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas; tornado recovery in Kansas and Florida; and now we've just received the first of what will probably be several appeals in response to this week's severe weather.

"On a couple of occasions in recent WOC Updates, we reported on a recent report from Oxfam, the large and highly respected UK charity, that the number of weather-related disasters in the world had quadrupled between 1984 and 2005. In the ensuing two years hence and the first five weeks of 2008, there's nothing to suggest that the tide has been reversed!

"Giving to Week of Compassion is important. Sharing resources in response to the world's many and staggering needs is part of our faith. People in great need are not forgotten. Our church partners on the frontlines are encouraged. Lives are changed – no less than our own. Thank you."

Johnny Wray

Minister of Week of Compassion

Central Christian Preschool 2008-2009 Registration Begins

The Preschool is holding Registration for the 2008-2009 school year in March. Registration begins Monday, March 3rd and will be open to the public beginning Monday, March 10th. Church members are welcome to register their preschoolers at any time. We encourage you to come and visit the preschool. We offer classes from 2-year-old Mommy and Me class to 5-year-old Pre-K class. Come join the Fun!!!

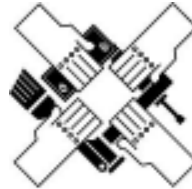
Shelly Messmore, Preschool Director

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Phyllis & Ken Davis** and family following the February 6th death of her sister, *Irma Milosevich* in Des Moines, Iowa.

Register NOW for the New Orleans Mission Trip – April 20-27th!

Central Christian Church and our sister congregation, Prairie Avenue Christian Church, are planning a third trip to the New Orleans, April 20-27th. Lend your time, your hands and your heart to the citizens of the Gulf coast who continue to struggle from the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. You will come away from this week of mission inspired and renewed! Registration and information forms are now available in the Friendship Center. If you are interested in the trip, please let **Pastors Gretchen** or **Robert** know of your interest, so we can keep you informed of new developments.



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. Four volunteers are needed for Tuesday, February 26 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. to help with ISAT Family Night. 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 send several volunteer proctors during ISAT week, March 3rd-5th. 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 9:30 a.m. and Noon, 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.

In Memoriam

During the last quarter of 2007 Central received special gifts honoring the memories of *E. Frank Beaman, Warren Brooks, Bob & Betty Campbell, Lyle & Minnie Campbell, Robert Cargill, Jim DeZarn, Walter & Clara Elston, Robert Lee Hodges, Lillian Lewis, Samuel C. Miller, and Robert E. Ward.*

We are grateful for the lives of these whose memories are honored here at Central and for those who have given memorial funds honoring them. Memorial gifts to Central in the last three months of 2007 total \$17,261.

Gifts to the church honoring the memories of friends and family members are always welcome and appropriate. Each gift is recorded at the church and acknowledged to the family. Memorial gifts are used for special needs approved by the Church Council and in consultation with family members.

Counting On You

February 17

Worship Attendance 268
Sunday School Attendance 64



Sunday, February 24, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Central Singers
10:45 Offertory-Men's Chorus
8:15 Anthem-Central Singers
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Mary Jane Linton
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
4:30-6:00-Youth Group

Monday (25)

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall
8:00-Basketball, Webster-Cantrell Hall

Tuesday (26)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
6:30-MCCOCP, Great Hall
7:00-Dorcas Disciple Women,
Disciple Room

Wednesday (27)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290
6:30-Jesus Study, Disciple Room

Thursday (28)

10:00-Alanon, 212
5:00-Stewardship Dept., Disciple Room
5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (29)

5:00-7:00-Breakfast Optimists Chili
Supper, Great Hall

Edwin Jacobs Publishes 2nd Book

Congratulations to **Edwin Jacobs** on the publication of his second book, *Magnificent Journey*. It is available through Victory Publishing Co. (872-7401).

Serving Schedule—February 24, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Randy Brooks, Rebecca Johnston

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

Kevin Wilmot Serving St. Mary's Hospital
Mike Holbrook Serving Decatur Memorial Hospital

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 Pirnce, 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 Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Lawrence Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

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 - Clark & Mary Waldmier, Donna Dash, Ann Harshman

10:45 - Ron & Jan Dobbs, Janet & Larry Thicksten

Parish Nurse: Mary Jane Linton

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Greg Carter

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Bill & Mary Alice Rule

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

February 27 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

Hosts:

Feb. 25 9:00-12:30 - Darla Lienemann

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

Feb. 26 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Feb. 27 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Feb. 28 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Feb. 29 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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 Latschaw 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.



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(Disciples of Christ)
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Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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