



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, February 27, 2008

No. 9

## 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.

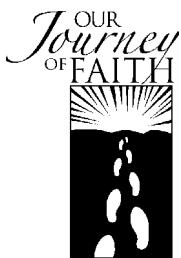
## Meet New Friends at Our Women's Retreat – March 28-29<sup>th</sup>!

*"I've always enjoyed retreats. They give me a time to be away from all the responsibilities at home. But the best reward is retreats have given me an opportunity to get to know people I would never know otherwise. During our past two retreats, I've gotten to know several women from Central and we've discovered we shared some common interests. Now, when we meet each other on Sunday mornings we're connected and happy to see each other. Who might you get to know on this year's retreat? Come join us and find out!"* – **Coleen Myers**

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 9<sup>th</sup>! Join us for this inspiring and relaxing experience as we celebrate our sisterhood with others around the world!

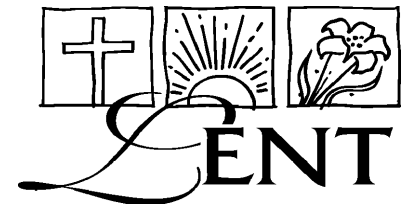
## We Want YOUR Story!

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](mailto: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!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2008**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**Show & Tell**  
Text: John 9:1-17  
Robert Bushey, Jr.



## Messiah in Worship for Lent and Easter

**Chancel Choir** is working hard to prepare several pieces from the oratorio *Messiah* by George Frederick Handel. These musical offerings will be spread out over four worship services. The first will be heard on Palm Sunday March 16. The Maundy Thursday service on March 20 will include choruses and arias that will support the stories about the life, ministry and passion of our Lord Jesus. The *Messiah* pieces will be accompanied by harpsichord and string quartet. Easter Sunday March 23, will bring two more favorite *Messiah* pieces to worship. On March 30, the week after Easter, typically dubbed "Low Sunday" because many people stay away from worship, the choir will present three pieces from *Messiah* to top off an exciting Easter season.

Please make plans now to be present in worship during the Lent and Easter season so that your life may be enriched and you may be a blessing to those with whom you worship.

## Central Youth

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**1:30-3:00 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 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Movie Night**

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

Two Movies to choose between - *Grapes of Wrath* or *Hoop Dreams!*

### **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

### **Men of Central Invited to Breakfast**

The Men of Central are invited to breakfast on **Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** at **8:30 a.m.** in the Great Hall. Biscuits and Gravy, fruit, coffee and juice will be served. School age and older sons are welcome to join us. We will enjoy breakfast, conversation about men's ministry at Central and we will share our favorite tips for spring lawn and garden preparations. And, we will be on our way by 10 a.m. Please, RSVP with **Pastor Robert** by March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Robert's Reflections**

For the past six months, Central volunteers have joined forces with folks from Prairie Avenue Christian Church in an effort to provide an after school opportunity for students at Hope Academy. Through our One Church One School partnership with Hope, we developed Hope Homework Oasis which currently serves 25 children from grades 1-7 twice a week. The program provides a snack, a few minutes to stretch energetic arms and legs, and about fifty minutes of homework assistance, tutoring or computer time. Nearly twenty volunteers give time as they are available to help with the program. Several volunteers serve once a week and some serve as many times each month as possible. We can always use more help. Central volunteers also visit the school during the school day to help students with academic needs. And, we are hoping to have several ISAT proctors on hand next week to help during the required state exams.

Our collaborative partnership with Hope Academy has served as an example for other churches in Decatur as they explore the ways they may assist our schools as we seek to provide every child with a quality education. In the Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Herald & Review*, the editorial board expressed their support for the partnering between the Decatur Public School District and local congregations. Churches are learning that our mission may find relevance when we work with community partners such as our schools. Schools are learning that without community partners such as businesses and churches, the mission of educating students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will fail. Truly, we have all known this for some time. Recently however, the efforts in our community to bring the partners to the table seem to be producing effective outcomes. Our efforts at Hope Academy have been directed by the needs of the school as expressed by the faculty and administration. Our relationship with the school has been beneficial for our volunteers, the students we work with, their teachers and their families.

During the next two weeks, Decatur Public School students will have their daily routines disrupted so that they may participate in the state required, annual achievement tests. The students' scores will determine whether or not their school is making "adequate yearly progress" according to federal government standards. Following the guidelines of the No Child Left Behind Act, every student is given the same test according to their grade level and regardless of their academic ability, learning style, social circumstance or any other special needs. Accommodations are granted to assist with some special needs such as taking the tests in a room with less people or having a math test read out loud to the student, but the tests are generally the same in content across the board. After the tests are finished and the scores recorded, awards will be announced for the schools, which "meet or exceed" the percentages provided by the state.

I want to invite you to become a prayer partner with our schools, including Hope Academy, our partner school. I invite you to pray for our schools, the staff and students, and their families especially during the next two weeks. I invite you to pray everyday that all students will perform to their ability and perhaps even beyond what we may expect of them. I invite you to pray that their families will be able to give them the supportive and encouraging environment they need to succeed in school and in life. I invite you to pray that teachers, support staff and administrators will possess the insight needed to support and encourage their students to realize their full potential as learners on a life-long educational journey. And, I invite you to pray that our community will partner together for the education of every child from birth through adulthood, from every neighborhood and subdivision, from every perceived ability and strength, and from every social circumstance. I will be in prayer with you.

**Robert**

## Central Christian Preschool 2008-2009 Registration Begins

The Preschool is holding Registration for the 2008-2009 school year in March. Registration begins Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be open to the public beginning Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. 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  
smessmore@cccdisciples.org  
(217) 428-4336

## Register NOW for the New Orleans Mission Trip – April 20-27<sup>th</sup>!

Central Christian Church and our sister congregation, Prairie Avenue Christian Church, are planning a third trip to the New Orleans, April 20-27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Diaconate Thanks/Reminder

Thank you to the deacons who have sent in your diaconate dues. Your \$5 contribution (per deacon) helps support the reception and luncheon provided for Central's Senior Members. The luncheon this year will be Saturday, April 19. If you have not yet mailed in your dues, please send your check (made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**.

## Shampoo, Soap and Lotion Collection for Honduran Women

Please help us as we collect shampoo, soaps and lotions for the women of Honduras. Our Mission Partner from Honduras, **Linda Hanson**, will be with us March 30<sup>th</sup> and we would like to send these items with her to take to the women of Honduras. A basket will be in the Friendship Center to collect your donations of small and travel size items. Let's fill it to the brim!

## Deepening Our Spirituality

On **Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**, contemporary scholar of the Bible, **Marcus Borg** will present two lectures at the First United Methodist Church in Evanston, IL. Pastor Robert has more registration forms and would be delighted for you to travel with him to hear Dr. Borg in person on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please, let **Pastor Robert** know of your interest in going by March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Sunday, March 2, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Woodwind Quintet  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir & Woodwind Quintet  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Cindy Soebbing  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
1:00-3:00-Youth bowling, PlaMor Lanes

## Monday (3)

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

## Tuesday (4)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study  
12:00-Preschool/Church Staff In-Service, Great Hall  
6:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room  
6:30-8:30-PEO Meeting, Parlor  
7:00-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

## Wednesday (5)

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

## Thursday (6)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
10:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
6:30-Preschool Board, 290  
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Saturday (8)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room  
11:00-1:00-Millikin Choirs Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
2:00-Larrick Shower, Disciple Room

## Counting On You

### February 24

Worship Attendance ..... 290  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 66

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## Serving Schedule—March 2, 2008

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mary Jane Linton, Chris Fagin

### Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Wayne Honeycutt & Bruce Campbell

### Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Larry Chapman, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Shelby Larrick, 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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski

10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Capt., Pam Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Greeters:

8:15 - Bruce & Liz Campbell, Greg & Jo Carter

10:45 - Florence Bolin, Pam Ferguson, Andy & Theresa Fulk

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Rachel Ash

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Keith Backes

### Parish Nurse:

Cindy Soebbing

### Preparation of Communion:

Becky & John Flanders, Pamela Bednar, David Flanders,

Joan Stewart, Lois Whitaker

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

### March 5 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Janet Gray, Joanne Gustin

### Hosts:

Mar. 3 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Mar. 4 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Mar. 5 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Mar. 6 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson

12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Mar. 7 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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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 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

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