



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, March 5, 2008

No. 10

Spring Forward!

Illinois will move to Daylight Saving Time this Sunday morning at 2 a.m. Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night, so you won't miss worship on Sunday morning!



SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2008
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
A Second Chance

Text: John 11:17-27
Charles Watkins



Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Thursday Evening, March 20 at 7:00 p.m., the congregation will gather in the sanctuary to recall the events of Jesus' ministry. We will hear a dramatization of the voice of Jesus speaking to us about his Passion Week preparations. We will participate in communion as we remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. This service will include music from Handel's

Messiah prepared by the Chancel Choir and soloist accompanied by harpsichord and string quartet.

Please consider attending this special service as part of your spiritual preparation for Easter. **Please contact the church office (428-4336) if you would like a ride.**

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 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. 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.

Men of Central Invited to Breakfast

The Men of Central are invited to breakfast on **Saturday, March 15th 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 12th.

Easter Lilies

The Worship Department will take orders for lilies this Sunday and next to decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning. Each lily costs \$13, and as you order, you can name the loved one being remembered or honored. The names of donors and those honored will be printed in the morning worship bulletin on Easter. After the Easter Sunday services, donors are invited to take the lilies home or to distribute them to others to enjoy.



Concert Friday, March 14

You are invited to a concert of vocal and organ music 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 were college roommates and worked together on their senior recitals. Since that time they have collaborated on several concerts here in Illinois and in Ontario. They will present a variety of music chosen from the works of Bach, Faure, Purcell, Schutz, Mendelssohn, Dvorak and Bernstein. There will also be hymn arrangements and spirituals. Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

Central Youth

**Sunday, March 9th
Movie Night**

6:00-8:30 p.m.

Two Movies to choose between!
Grapes of Wrath & Hoop Dreams

**Sunday, March 16th
4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Central youth grades 6-12 will gather at the church for discussion, prayer and fun.

Bring a finger food to share.
Drinks will be provided.

**Easter Sunday
March 23rd**

Central Youth will Not Meet.

**Summer Church Camp
for 2008**

Camp Registration Forms are available in the Church Office!

Look for our display in the Friendship Center!

**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

Shampoo, Soap and Lotion Collection for Honduran Women

Help us collect shampoo, soaps and lotions for the women of Honduras. Our Mission Partner from Honduras, **Linda Hanson**, will be with us March 30 and we want to send these items with her for the women of Honduras. A basket is in the Friendship Center for your donations of small and travel size items. Let's fill it to the brim!

Charles's Column

The Stewardship Department of our congregation is also the finance committee, overseeing not only the preparation of the annual operating fund budget but also keeping track of our progress in achieving our financial goals.

At the February meeting of the Stewardship Department, the members reviewed the congregation's financial results for 2007. Central ended last year with a small cash surplus of \$ 6,800. That may not seem surprising unless you remember that 2007 is only the second year in the last decade in which the church finished the year with cash on hand. In many recent years, we have ended the year with an operating deficit.

But your faithful and generous giving to your church has changed this pattern for 2006 and 2007. Last year member giving to the operating budget was 98.7% of the amount anticipated in the budget. Total receipts were 99.8% of the budgeted amount. At the same time, expenditures were 96.7% of the amount anticipated in the budget, over three quarters of a million dollars. And as always, Central was a leader in mission outreach giving through the Disciples Mission Fund, ranking among the top ten Disciples congregations in mission dollars giving. Giving to denominational and local mission partners exceeded \$150,000.

The Stewardship Department wants to commend you for your excellent record of making generous estimates of giving and fulfilling those giving plans. Your good effort has made the church financially strong and especially effective in achieving its mission of witness and service.

Now for the bad news. The extraordinary expenses of a difficult winter and weaker giving than anticipated in January and February have again plunged our congregation into a cash deficit in the operating fund. The problem is not so severe that we cannot reverse it in the month of March.

If each of us who regularly support our church's mission can be sure that we give one quarter of our 2008 giving before the end of this month, we can correct our course and restore our church to its position of financial strength.

If you want to know more about our church's financial condition, detailed reports from the Church Treasurer and the Board of Trustees are always available for your review on the counter in the Friendship Center by the church office.

Thank you for all your gifts to the church. Do not grow weary in doing well!

Charles Watkins

Join us for the Women's Retreat – March 28-29th!

"Attending the Women's Retreat last February was one of the most rewarding experiences. I was able to meet and worship with women in the church I hadn't met yet. I also had the privilege to deepen my relationship with those women I already knew. There were so many different parts of the retreat that I enjoyed from the singing to socializing and then to sharing memories and dreams with fellow women. I am looking forward to this year's retreat and I hope that you too can join in on the fun!" – **Katie Powers**

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 delicious meals! Limited scholarships are available. Pick up your registration form this week and return it by March 9th with your fee. Join us for this inspiring and relaxing experience as we celebrate our sisterhood with others around the world!

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of **David Dilley**, following his death on February 24.....and to **Bob & Diane Reed** and family following the death of his father, *John W. Reed* on March 3.

Help Needed at Camp Walter Scott

Our church's camp and conference center, Camp Walter Scott, located south of Effingham is in need of volunteers to help with two projects. First, on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 & 27 volunteers are needed for a Work Weekend to help prepare the camp for the summer camping season. Lunch will be provided and worship on Sunday for those staying over night. Reservations are needed by April 23rd. Second, volunteers are needed to help with kitchen duties during the summer church camp season. Volunteers who are able to spend a week at the camp are housed in a comfortable air-conditioned space. Volunteers help in the kitchen in two shifts Monday through Friday morning through lunch and afternoon through dinner. If you are interested in spending a week at Camp Walter Scott this summer or helping with the Work Weekend, please see **Pastor Robert** for details and a registration form.

A Note of Thanks Received

Thank you for your donation of new socks and underwear to the Dove Clothing Room! The clothing room served 2536 children in 2007. We very much appreciate your willingness to share with the community.

Sincerely, Joan Meader, Clothing Room Director

Grapes of Wrath Now Showing at Just Flicks

The next film in our Just Flicks film series is the classic *Grapes of Wrath* at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 9th in the Great Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Just Flicks is a cooperative ministry of Central's Peace & Justice Task Force and First Presbyterian Church's Peacemaking Committee.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, March 12th!

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 Wednesday, March 12th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's "guest chef" is **Paula Hovey**. Paula will be cooking up Chicken Pot Pie, tossed salad and dessert for us, all for just \$4 – it is truly the best deal in town!

Following the meal, **Don Martin** and his sister, **Elaine Pearce**, will present a mini-concert of "Family Favorites" of Gospel and Blue Grass music. To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this 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, March 10th, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!



Sunday, March 9, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Sarah Funk, Piano
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
4:00-Millikin Choir Concert, Sanctuary
6:00-Just Flicks, Great Hall
6:00-8:30-Youth Movie Night, Disciple Room

Monday (10)

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

Tuesday (11)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
5:00-CADV, Disciple Room
5:30-Fellowship Dept., Volunteer Room
6:30-Preschool Board, 290
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

Wednesday (12)

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

Thursday (13)

10:00-Alanon, 212
5:30-Baby Talk Pre-K Family Fun,
Disciple Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (14)

7:00-Elaine Pearce & Elsa Bakkum
Vocal & Organ Concert, Sanctuary

Saturday (15)

8:30-Men's Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

March 2

Worship Attendance 305
Sunday School Attendance 63

Serving Schedule—March 9, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Otis, Kevin Wilmot

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Sherri Hood

Shelby Larrick

Dale Ford

Judy Ford

Debbie Seaberg

Connie Shields

David Shields

Max Sperry

Elders

Felicity Williams

John Graham

Bruce Campbell

Jo Carter

Mary Jane Oliver

Mike Holbrook

Connie Bordner

Kevin Miller

Mark Beal

Dick Cain

Alternate: Janet Lyman

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 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 9 - Bruce Stoddard, Carol Stoddard, Kevin Miller, Kim Miller, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, York Powers

Greeters:

8:15 - Roe Skidmore, Frances Heiserman, Gene & Sandy Garver

10:45 - Jim & Lois Whitaker, Bruce & Felicity Williams

Parish Nurse:

Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Andrew Otis, Austin Eonie

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Debbie & Dennis Downey

Preparation of Communion:

Becky & John Flanders, Pamela Bednar, David Flanders, Joan Stewart, Lois Whitaker

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Bruce Williams

March 12 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

Mar. 10 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle

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

Mar. 11 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Mar. 12 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Mar. 13 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Mar. 14 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

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 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.



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

PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
 PAID

