



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

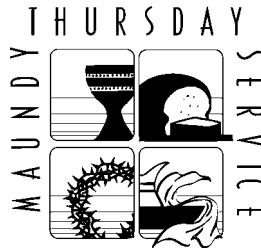
Decatur, Illinois, March 12, 2008

No. 11

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 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.

Cluster Churches Gather for Music Event

Sunday March 30 at 4:00 p.m. at First Christian Church in Blue Mound, friends from area cluster churches will gather to share in an afternoon of music and fellowship. There are two ways that you can be involved. You may choose to come and listen to the musical offerings presented and sing with the congregation as they join in praise to God. You may also offer to sing or play a solo or in a group. Please contact **Don Martin** if you would like to participate in this way. After the time of singing together, there will be food and fellowship. This will be a great opportunity to meet with your friends from other Disciples churches in the area and to meet new friends. Please mark your calendars and meet us at Blue Mound.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

The Greater Good

Text: John 11:45-53

Charles Watkins

Last Chance to Order a Lily

Again this Sunday the Worship Department will offer you the opportunity to place a lily in the church honoring the memory of one whom you especially remember this Easter. Palm Sunday is your final opportunity to place your order. After the second service on Easter Sunday, you can take your lily to your home or to the home of a friend who will be cheered by your thoughtfulness.



Concert Friday, March 14

You are invited, this Friday at 7:00 p.m., 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.



Central Youth

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.

Sunday, April 6th
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Cardboard Pick-Up

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

Charles's Column

This Sunday as we begin the holiest week of the Christian year, we have to ask ourselves, "What difference does it make in my life?"

There is a sense in which all Christians understand that this is the crux of our faith, and more Christians will be in church on March 23 than on any other Sunday of the year. That's wonderful! That's a good sign! Christians know at a level deeper than thought that Easter is essential, vital, *sine qua non*. My pastor from old school days William Sloane Coffin puts it this way: "Not one to hedge his bets, St. Paul puts all his Christian eggs in one Easter basket: 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile' (I Corinthians 15:17)"

If we don't have Easter, we Christians don't have anything, and just about everybody understands that. But we are still too tied to the idea of Resurrection as something that happened way back then in ancient days. Most any one can decide that the God who created all things is capable of a one-time and totally unique event in which all the forces of nature and death and decay were thwarted. We can at some level suspend our scientific mind-set and figure that maybe once in all the eons of ages, God could by sheer force of will violate God's own created order and bring life from death.

But fewer of us can believe that God can do it again. And again. And again. And for us. Even if we think God can do it for our dead mothers and fathers and aunts and uncles, we really wonder if God can do it for us. Why would God do it? Why would God do it for me?

Children and the very naive know that with God nothing is impossible and the every-day rules by which we live can easily fall away so that the dead live again. But anybody with a high school understanding of biology and physics and "funeral science" has a much harder time with the most essential Christian doctrine that the dead shall be raised.

To be truly significant in our lives, though, we have to understand that the resurrection was not just for Jesus. It is for us. It is for those we love but see no more. It is for here and now.

And the resurrection is for you. My hope for you these next two Sundays as you attend to the worship of the church is that you will understand that the resurrection is personal. It really is about you as well as about Jesus. It is part of God's plan for your eternal life. And your response to that great goodness is what your life today is all about. Are you grateful to God? Do you show it? Can the world see it?

I hope this Easter will be a new beginning for you—a new start at love and loyalty and devotion and faith and commitment and new life. Thanks be to God!

Charles Watkins

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.



News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Louise Boline, Rosie Doore and Sara Field** following the March 5th death of their sister, *Ella Mae Ward*.

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 overnight. 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.

Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser for Habitat for Humanity

Decatur Area Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring a Chicken Dinner on March 30th at the Masonic Temple from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The menu is 1/2 grilled chicken, potato salad, baked beans, roll & drink (dessert available at an extra charge). Tickets are \$7 per person and will be available in Central's Friendship Center this Sunday and next.



Diaconate Reminder

If you have not mailed in your diaconate dues, please send your check (made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**. 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.

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!



Sunday, March 16, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Chancel Bells & Elaine Pearce
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
4:30-Youth Group

Monday (17)

6:30-Preschool Parents Mtg., Friendship Center
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall
8:00-Basketball, Webster Cantrell Hall

Tuesday (18)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
6:00-Women's Retreat Planning, Volunteer Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir
7:00-Shepherding Dept., Volunteer Rm.

Wednesday (19)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Property Department, Great Hall
6:30-Jesus Study, Disciple Room

Thursday (20)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
7:00-Maundy Thursday Service

Counting On You	
March 9	
Worship Attendance	306
Sunday School Attendance	52

Serving Schedule—March 16, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Claudia Quigg, Larry Thicksten

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 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 - Bob & Chloe Hoaglin, Dean & Sue Simcox

10:45 - David & Katie Miller, Ed & Jean Voice

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Alexis Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Keith Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Mike & Gerri Munos Family

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 - Jan Patrick

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

March 19 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Mar. 17 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray
12:30-4:00 - Gail Prince

Mar. 18 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Mar. 19 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Mar. 20 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Mar. 21 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
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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 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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