



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, March 19, 2008

No. 12

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 attend to 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.

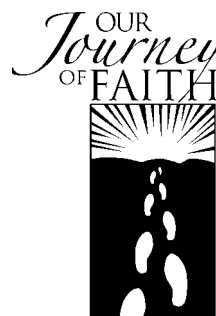
Messiah in Worship for Easter

Chancel Choir is working hard to prepare several pieces from the oratorio *Messiah* by George Frederick Handel. Easter Sunday, March 23, will bring two of the 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, so your life may be enriched and you may be a blessing to those with whom you worship.

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) or 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!



SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2008

Easter Sunday

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Christ is Risen Indeed

Text: John 20:1-18

Gretchen Barron

Easter Sunday Fun!

The Christian Education Department will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 3-10 yrs. on Sunday, March 23rd on the South Lawn.

Children are invited to attend their Sunday School

class at 9:30 a.m.

and classes will be

dismissed for the

hunt at 9:45 a.m.

Bags for egg

collection will be

provided. This year,

some of the eggs

will contain special

prizes! Breakfast

pastries, milk, coffee and juice will be

available in the Great Hall for the

children and their families after the

hunt. Plan to be a part of our Easter

Celebration!



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 are available in the Friendship Center this Sunday.



**Central Youth
Easter Sunday
March 23rd**

Central Youth will not meet.

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

Central youth grades 6-12 are invited to attend the Cluster Music Event at First Christian Church in Blue Mound. See **Don Martin** for more information.

**Sunday, April 6th
1:30-4:00 p.m.
Cardboard Pick-Up**

**Sunday, April 13th
4:30-6:00 p.m.**

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

**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

If you have the feeling that you've barely caught your breath from Christmas and now it's Easter already, then you'll be glad to know that you have good reason to feel that way. In your life-time, no one has had to get out the Easter bunnies this soon after putting away the Christmas ornaments.

Easter in western Christianity (but not in Eastern Orthodox traditions) falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. That's always been easy for me, since my birthday falls on the vernal equinox, the first day of spring. So just look for the first full moon after my birthday, and the next Sunday is Easter.

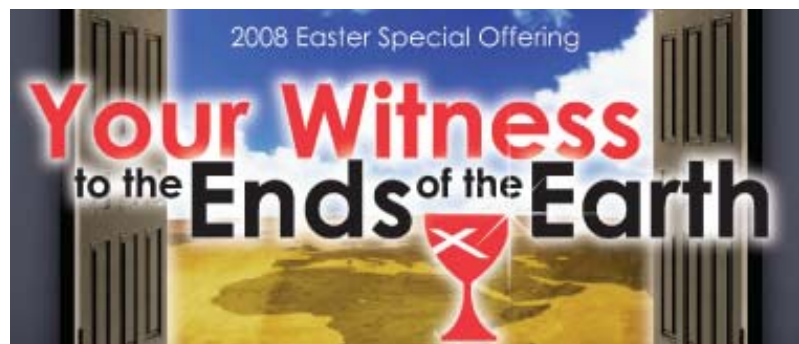
The earliest possible date for Easter, then, is March 22, so this year's celebration of the resurrection of Christ is only one day from being the earliest it could possibly be. And according to www.snopes.com, the next time Easter will be this early will be the year 2228 (two hundred twenty years from now). This Sunday is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see for the rest of our lives! And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier. The next time Easter will be on the earliest possible day, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (two hundred seventy-seven years from now). The last time Easter fell on March 22 was 1818, so no person living today has or will ever see Easter any earlier than this year. And the last time Easter fell on March 23, as it does this year, was in 1913. Only those of us over ninety-five years old ever have seen an earlier Easter than this one.

If all that is too mind-numbing, here is a summary: The last time Easter fell on so early a date was 1913, and the next time it will do so will be in the year 2160. This early Easter is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Enjoy it!

Now, if there is any serious purpose to this arcane knowledge, maybe it's just to realize that Easter has been the most important day in the Christian year for many centuries before we walked this earth, and Easter is already scheduled to be a high holy day long after we have departed this realm. Easter is bigger and more important than any of us. But this Sunday, as we celebrate the earliest Easter in our lifetimes, we will celebrate salvation in Christ Jesus with all the saints in every time and beyond time. And we will sing these words written by John of Damascus in the eighth century:

*The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory,*

Charles Watkins



News From the Pews....



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Carolyn Swart Weaver & Melanie Weaver** and family following the death of 13 year old son & brother, *Gregory Marion Weaver* on March 10.....to **Matt & Sarah** (Maggioncalda) **Andrews** following the March 12th death of Matt's brother, *Todd Andrews* of St. Charles, Missouri.....to **Marie Williams** and family following the death of her husband *Clarence Williams* on March 15.....and to **Charles & Jane Watkins** and family following the March 17th death of Charles's father, *Arthur B.*

"A.B." *Watkins* in San Antonio, Texas.

Proud great-grandmother, **Donna Strong** announces the birth of her first great-grandchild, **Ava Grace**, born March 17 to **Melissa & Fred Saurmann**.



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

A few seats remain on the bus for the mission trip to New Orleans, April 20th-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.



Shampoo, Soap and Lotion Collection for Honduran Women

Please help us collect shampoo, soaps and lotions for the women of Honduras. Our Mission Partner from Honduras, **Linda Hanson**, will be with us March 30th and we want 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!

Hospitalized?

Whenever you enter any hospital, please phone the church so that ministers and elders can pray for you and visit you. Regulations to protect your privacy as a patient prohibit hospitals from notifying your pastors as they previously did. For the hospital to release this information requires your specific permission, and often your permission is never even requested, especially if you enter the hospital through the Emergency Room. Any time you are in the hospital more than forty-eight hours and no one from Central has visited you, you may be sure that the church does not know you are hospitalized. Help us provide good pastoral care!

Counting On You

March 16

Worship Attendance 354
 Sunday School Attendance 65



Sunday, March 23, 2008

Easter Sunday

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
 Music: Offertory-Connie Bordner
 10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
 9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
 9:30-Sunday School

Monday (24)

8:00-Basketball, Webster Cantrell Hall

Tuesday (25)

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

Wednesday (26)

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

Thursday (27)

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

Friday (28)

6:00 p.m.-Women's Retreat Begins,
 Camp One Way

Saturday (29)

6:00 p.m.-Women's Retreat Ends



Serving Schedule—March 23, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Jan Dobbs, Brett Swallow

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

Elder Jan Dobbs Serving St. Mary's Hospital
Elder Mary Jane Linton Serving Decatur Memorial

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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal, Charlotte Lyon, Barbara Tyler

Greeters:

8:15 - Harold & Bess King, Bob & Wanda Webb

10:45 - Keith & Jeannie Backes, Bob & Billie Harmon

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Avery Martin, Alexis Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Brenda & Don Tankersley

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing
10:45 service only - Richard Ward

March 26 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

Hosts:

Mar. 24 9:00-12:30 - Nancy Taylor
12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Mar. 25 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Mar. 26 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Mar. 27 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Mar. 28 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

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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 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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