



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, March 26, 2008

No. 13

## Cluster Churches Gather for Music Event

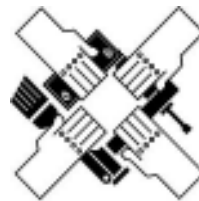
On **Sunday March 30 at 4:00 p.m.** at **First Christian Church in Blue Mound**, friends from area cluster churches will gather to share in an afternoon of music and fellowship. There are two ways that you can be involved. You may choose to come and attend to listen to the musical offerings presented 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.

## Invitation to Fellowship Coffee and Mission Partner Presentation

**Linda Hanson**, our Mission Partner from Honduras, will be with us this Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and will give a presentation during the Sunday School hour in the Great Hall. The World Outreach department is hosting Fellowship Coffee this Sunday as well, also in the Great Hall. Please join us in the Great Hall at 9:30 a.m. for goodies and for uplifting news of the ministry that is shared with the people of Honduras.

## Last Chance to Register for the New Orleans Mission Trip!

If you've been thinking about going but haven't yet turned in your registration form and \$50 deposit, please do so this week! There is still room for you on the bus but we need to know who is going and we need to get that word to the mission site so they can plan for the work we will be doing. Talk with **Pastors Gretchen** or **Robert** this Sunday if you plan to be part of the April 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> trip! A meeting of all trip participants will be scheduled soon to go over details!



## Next at Just Flicks: *Paper Clips*

The next film in the Just Flicks Series will be shown on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. *Paper Clips* shares the story of a middle school in rural Tennessee where students decided to collect six million paper clips as they struggled with the impact the Holocaust of WWII had upon global history. The documentary details how the students' lives were transformed through their encounters with Holocaust survivors and through their project.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2008**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**Good News for Doubters!**

Text: John 20:19-31  
Charles Watkins

## Don't Forget to Pick up Your Habitat Dinners!

Just a reminder for those of you who purchased tickets, the Decatur Area Habitat for Humanity Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser is this Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Temple. You may pick up your dinners any time between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

## Shampoo, Soap and Lotion Collection for Honduran Women

This Sunday is your last opportunity to bring shampoos, soaps and lotions for the women of Honduras. We will be sending your donations with our Mission Partner, **Linda Hanson**. Please put your items in the box in the Friendship Center.

## Financial Reports Available

Detailed reports on church finances are always available on the counter in the Friendship Center next to the church office. The monthly Treasurer's report to the Church Council on the General Operating Fund and various designated funds are placed there along with the monthly Board of Trustees financial report.

## Central Youth

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**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 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Cardboard Pick-Up**

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:30-6:00 p.m.**

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

Youth are also invited to attend Just Flicks showing of *Paper Clips* at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**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

**Arthur B. "A.B." Watkins** (January 30, 1915—March 17, 2008) was born in Jourdanton, Texas half-an-hour south of San Antonio, the fifth of ten children, grew up in Petersburg, Texas, and graduated as salutatorian of his class and editor of the school newspaper in 1933. That summer he traveled with his evangelist father Charles W. Watkins conducting revivals and evangelistic meetings across Oklahoma and West Texas. He entered college in Oklahoma that fall and at Texas Tech the following fall, but the Great Depression kept him from finishing, so he went to work for the Works Progress Administration in Lubbock in 1935 as a typist, and soon was producing the payroll for the local WPA.

In 1936 he went to work as bookkeeper for Stevens' Drygoods on the Lubbock County square, and in August he married Edna Louise Copeland in Amarillo. He continued working at the store when it was purchased by Dunlap's Department Stores, and over the next thirty years he advanced to office manager, personnel manager, credit manager, assistant store manager and finally general manager of the Lubbock operation of four Dunlap's stores.

In 1966 he went to work for Hemphill-Wells Department Store as director of personnel and sales training. In 1985 he retired at the age of 70 after fifty years of retailing in the high-end, full-service department store business. In 1988 his wife of fifty-two years died of lung cancer. In 1990 I drove a diesel U-Haul truck, moving him from the home he built in Lubbock in 1941, to San Antonio to pursue a relationship with Doris Bailey Caldwell whom he had admired as a teen-age evangelist six decades before. I officiated at their marriage on April 7, 1991, in San Antonio. Doris died on July 12, 2000, and on April 23, 2001, I officiated at his marriage to Mary Erlene Brown Hyde who survives him.

For ten years, A. B. Watkins was not only my Dad, he was also my employer. I worked for him from age 11 to age 21 when I graduated from Texas Tech and left Lubbock to attend theological seminary. I gained experience in every department of the store from the print shop to the payroll office, and I use what Dad taught me about business every day in my ministry.

On November 13 last year, he fell in his room and broke his hip. Over the next four months, his health declined steadily, and he died on St. Patrick's Day. I was privileged to preach the sermon at his funeral service in San Antonio on Tuesday of Holy Week. His ashes were interred next to my mother's grave in Lubbock the day before Easter.

I am so grateful for your understanding and for the excellent work of my colleagues in ministry at Central, enabling me to do what I needed to do and be where I needed to be even during the holiest week of the year. May A. B. Watkins rest in peace and glory.

*Charles Watkins*

### Youth Cardboard Pick Up

The Youth Cardboard Recycling Project for November has been scheduled for **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sign up this Sunday. Acceptable cardboard includes corrugated, uncoated food containers, dry goods boxes, tissue boxes, etc. Please, help us by emptying your boxes of foam packaging, tissue paper, or other contents. Boxes do not need to be broken down, however this does aid our progress. Remember, the cardboard recycling is a service project and not a fundraiser for our youth.

## Our Identity

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a community of believers who through baptism into Jesus Christ are bound by covenant to God and one another. Disciples draw their inspiration from Scripture and the Holy Spirit, celebrating around the Lord's Table the life, death, resurrection and continuing presence of Christ. They proclaim the Good News of salvation and claim as their particular mission the quest for Christian unity. While stressing freedom and diversity under God, they believe unity and mission are inseparable. They witness and serve among the whole human family in the interest of peace, justice, mercy and kindness.

## Scholarship Applications Available

The *Walter and Inabell Kirby Scholarship* is awarded annually to a qualified applicant who is pursuing a career in music or international affairs. If no qualified applicants apply in these designated fields, the scholarship is opened to all applicants. The scholarship is awarded to a member of Central who is enrolled in a college or university or will be in the fall.

The *Roy O. & Rachel R. Schilling Scholarship* is awarded to a participating member of Central currently attending a college, university or trade school, or planning to attend one the following year. Preference is given to those who intend to enter into the fields of ministry, teaching or nursing. If no qualified applicants apply in these designated fields, the scholarship is opened to all applicants.

The *Cocoa "Coke" and Lilabelle Traylor Scholarship* is awarded annually to a deserving person who wishes to pursue a career in teaching. Preference is also given to those who intend to enter into public service such as the fields of ministry or nursing. If no qualified applicants apply in these designated fields, the scholarship may be awarded to a candidate who will attend vocational school to learn a trade.

Applications for the above scholarships are available at the church office and are due back by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need, however, participation in church, school and community activities are considered as well.

## Disciples World - April 2008

Disciples' ministry in Appalachia is the focus for the April 2008 issue of *Disciples World*. Inside you will find articles about our church's ministry in the varied economic and environmental conditions of the region where as many as 23% of the population lives in poverty and 36% drop out of school before completing High School. Along with reflections on the lectionary scripture text for each week, articles on coming events for our general church, news and opinion from readers, *Disciples World* connects us with our sisters and brothers serving Christ across the globe. A free copy is available in the Welcome Center next to the church office for you to take home. New subscriptions are always welcome as we support this important ministry of our denomination.



### Sunday, March 30, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Dan Stuby, Baritone;  
Christopher Strong, Trumpet  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell  
9:00-Fellowship Coffee, Great Hall  
9:20-Honduras Missionary Linda  
Hanson Presentation, Great Hall  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
4:00-Cluster Event, Blue Mound  
Christian Church

### Monday (31)

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

### Tuesday (April 1)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room  
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

### Wednesday (2)

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

### Thursday (3)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
10:15-1:15-HSAC meeting, Disciple Rm.  
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Counting On You

### March 23

Worship Attendance ..... 503  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 47

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## Serving Schedule—March 30, 2008

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Janet Lyman, Wayne Honeycutt

### 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 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 - Betty Cox, Betty Ann Roe, Mary Kincaid, Virginia Griffith

10:45 - Glen & Jody Featherstun, Brett & Kelly Swallow

**Parish Nurse:** Liz Campbell

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Jim Hinze

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** World Outreach Department

### 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 - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

### April 2 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Janet Gray, Joanne Gustin

### Hosts:

Mar. 31 9:00-12:30 - Chris Fagin

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

Apr. 1 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Apr. 2 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Byrd

Apr. 3 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson

12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Apr. 4 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore

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 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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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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PERIODICAL  
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