



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, April 9, 2008

No. 15

Diaconate Sponsors Senior Members Luncheon

Saturday, April 19, the Deacons are honoring Central's senior members, who have attained the age of 70 or better, with a reception at 11:30 in the Disciple Room and a luncheon at noon in the Great Hall. The menu is Roast Pork, Potato Casserole, Glazed Carrots, Fruit Salad, and Sheet Cake.

If you did not receive an invitation and are eligible, or if you did receive one, but have not responded, please call the church office (428-4336).

Dinner for Eight

The Shepherding Department is revamping a favorite tradition at Central – Dinners for Eight. The dinners provide a unique opportunity for Central members and friends to get to know each other in a relaxed, informal atmosphere, usually in the host's home. Sign up begin this Sunday. Once you've signed up, you will receive a letter which tells you which group you are assigned to and who will act as your host. Members of each group decide the best date and time to meet and who will bring which dinner items. The groups are asked to meet one time for dinner in May. When you sign up, be sure and let us know if you are able and willing to host one of the group gatherings. For more information, contact **Pastor Gretchen**. Sign up this Sunday for Dinner for Eight.

ChristCare Stitchers Celebrate 5000 Blankets!



More than 50 individuals gathered in the Great Hall on Tuesday to celebrate 8 years of ministry and 5000 blankets made by Central's ChristCare stitchers. Presentations were made by **Mary Balagna**, National Vice President of Project Linus, and **Cheryl Hughes**, Central Illinois Chapter co-President and **Theresa Churchill Fulk**. The ChristCare Stitchers began in 2000 under the leadership of **Ernestine Mrozinski**. Blankets are donated through area agencies and distributed to traumatized and ill children. The work continues each Tuesday, beginning at 9 a.m., in Room 207 and more volunteers are always needed. For more information, contact **Jane French**.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Good Shepherding

Text: John 10:1-10
Charles Watkins

Blessing of Children Scheduled

A service of Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents has been scheduled for Mother's Day Sunday, May 11th during both services. If you would like to be included in this service, please contact the church office at 428-4336 by May 1st.



Scholarship Application Deadline May 1st

Applications for the Kirby, Schilling and Traylor Scholarships are available at the church office and are due back by May 1st. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need, however, participation in church, school and community activities are considered as well.

Festival of Hymns, May 4, 4 p.m.

Festival of Hymns by Hal Hopson is a collection of stories about hymn writers combined with the singing of their hymns. The Decatur Area Cluster of Disciples Churches is cooperating to present this program for you. After the singing there will be a time to fellowship. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends.



Central Youth

Sunday, April 13th
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 20th
4:30-6:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, April 27th
4:30-6:00 p.m.

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

Summer Church Camp 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

At the end of last month, our congregation completed the second year of the current three-year capital campaign *Preserving our Past...Securing our Future*. Back in the spring of 2006, two hundred four Central families pledged half a million dollars to our church's building fund program. It was the first time in more than a decade that a capital campaign in our congregation was fully underwritten by pledged commitments.

Over the last twenty-four months, these families have contributed \$342,558 toward their pledges for the building fund. Another fifty-two families have contributed \$28,481 to the campaign, so we are ahead of schedule in meeting our three-year goal.

The steady and generous flow of giving has enabled our church to complete all but one of the campaign's goals. We completed major repairs to the fifty-year-old roof of the sanctuary and stopped all leaks into our original building at a cost of \$162,000. We completed restoration of limestone surfaces on chapel and sanctuary steps, tuckpointing which was not finished in the early nineties, and repairs to the bell tower at a cost of \$58,000. We purchased a new fully-accessible church bus, and replaced a twenty-year-old telephone system throughout the church buildings. And the church has no mortgage debt, thanks to careful timing of these capital projects.

The only project outlined in plans for the current capital campaign which was not accomplished was the restoration and preservation of stained glass windows in the church. The glass project had to be postponed when it became clear that the 1955 Kewanee Boiler which heated the original building had to be replaced. The current capital program removed the enormous old boiler and installed two new computer-controlled two-million BTU, high-efficiency Lochinvar boilers which have heated our worship, office, and adult education areas successfully throughout the long winter just completed. The boiler project cost our church \$96,000.

As is traditional in Central's capital campaigns, we committed a tithe of all member gifts to four local outreach projects: DOVE, Inc., Oasis Day Center for the homeless, Webster-Cantrell Hall, and Camp Walter Scott. In the first two years, our congregation has contributed \$9,100 to the capital needs of each of these four. Our gifts to DOVE, Inc. have helped remodel the Anna B. Millikin Home into Decatur's Domestic Violence Shelter, and Central is listed with our city's largest corporations among the big donors. Our gifts to Webster-Cantrell Hall have strengthened its ten-year endowment campaign. Our gifts to Camp Walter Scott represented more than 10% of last year's Miracle Day fund-raising goal, and have boosted efforts to make capital improvements to the camp. And our gifts to Oasis have helped keep the doors open to the homeless in the face of massive confusion and disarray in state budget funding. You have done so well in this campaign, and we have one more year to go in which all building fund contributions are helpful and gratefully accepted. Next, the windows!

Charles Watkins

SARAH'S DAUGHTERS BANQUET

Friday, May 9th – 6:30 p.m.

Declaration of Life Campaign

Signers of the Declaration of Life share the sentiments expressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., before his assassination on April 4, 1968. He said, "If one day you find me sprawled out dead, I do not want you to retaliate with a single act of violence. I urge you to continue protesting with the same dignity and discipline you have shown so far." It is in this spirit that the Declaration of Life was created in 1993 by Sister Camille D'Arienzo, of the Convent of Mary in Brooklyn, New York. It is not legally binding, but it makes a strong statement of a person's wishes. Formatted and conceived in a way similar to that of a living will, the Declaration of Life allows individuals to express their opposition to the use of the death penalty in a very personal way.

The Peace & Justice Task Force invites you to consider signing a Declaration of Life this Sunday, April 13th. Members of the Task Force will be available in the Friendship Center and the office area to assist those so inclined to sign a Declaration of Life statement, which states your preference that should you be murdered, that under no circumstances would you want another life to be shed. In a way of explanation, we in no way diminish the horror of murder, but believe that another killing in no way mitigates this horror, and only perpetuates it. We believe that murderers need to be held responsible for their crime, and that we as individuals and as a community do not need to become like them in order for that to take place. The signing of the document will be verified by a witness and a notary public to assure that it reflects the intentions of the signer.

This Sunday at Just Flicks: *Paper Clips*



The next film in the Just Flicks Series will be shown this Sunday, April 13th at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. *Paper Clips* shares the story of a middle school in rural Tennessee where students decide to collect six million paper clips as they struggle 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.

Ladies Night Out – Wednesday, April 30th!

Members and friends of Central are invited to join together for a delightful meal and night out on Wednesday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at O'Charley's in Forsyth. Great food, laughter, fellowship and door prizes guaranteed! Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center!

Ladies Night Out



Counting On You

April 6

Worship Attendance 283
 Sunday School Attendance 65



Sunday, April 13, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
 Music: Offertory-Leslie Peart, Organ
 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
 11:00-Hunger Relief Team Serving at
 Good Samaritan Inn
 4:30-Youth Group
 6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian

Monday (14)

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

Tuesday (15)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
 9:00-11:30-Preschool Vision/Hearing
 Testing, Parlor
 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
 Senior Pastor's Study

Wednesday (16)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
 9:00-11:30-Preschool Vision/Hearing
 Testing, Parlor
 12:00-Central Singers
 6:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room

Thursday (17)

10:00-Alanon, 212
 4:00-6:00-Phoenix II Family Fun,
 Ecclesia Fellowship Room
 5:30-Baby Talk Pre-K Family Fun,
 Great Hall
 5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
 6:00-Chancel Bells
 7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (19)

11:30-Senior Members Reception,
 Disciple Room
 12:00-Senior Members Luncheon,
 Great Hall

Serving Schedule—April 13, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Connie Bordner, Keith Backes

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Janet Thicksten	Cindy Soebbing
Larry Thicksten	Jan Dobbs
Sally Thicksten	Brett Swallow
Ed Acheson	Dick Cain
Lucy Acheson	Randy Brooks
Jeannie Backes	Al Fagin
Louise Boline	Keith Backes
Mary Boyle	Jo Carter
Shirley Brooks	Shirley Swarhout
Jon French	Larry Otis
	Alternate: Kevin Wilmot

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, Kevin Ann Otis, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carol Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe
10:45 - Team 9 - Bruce Stoddard, Capt., Carol Stoddard, Kim Miller, Kevin Miller, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, York Powers

Greeters:

8:15 - Bill & Mary Alice Rule, Barbara Beyer, Rita Woods
10:45 - Howard & Marguerite Cravens, Larry & Debbie Foster

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk
10:45 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash
10:45 - Larry Pepper

Children's Worship: Teri Bushey

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: John & Carol Graham

Preparation of Communion:

Evelyn Sperry, Ann Carnock, Betty Chapman, Gregg & Linda Foltz

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick
10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

April 16 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Apr. 14 9:00-12:30 - Florence Bolin
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Apr. 15 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd
Apr. 16 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
Apr. 17 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
Apr. 18 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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