



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, April 16, 2008

No. 16

## Mission Delegation Leaves This Sunday for New Orleans!

Please keep our mission delegation in your thoughts and prayers as they load the church bus and depart early Sunday morning for New Orleans. They will spend the week at Westside Christian Church working with Project Nehemiah, renovating homes that were damaged by hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005. Ten people are going on the mission trip – **Doug & Cindy Soebbing, Don Tankersley, Bob Keller, Dwight Bollinger, Kevin Wilmot, and Janet Lyman** from Central; **Ken Kersey** from Blue Mound Christian Church and **Connie Green and Joy Witt** from Prairie Avenue Christian Church. We look forward to their photos and stories when they return. If you would like to help fund future mission trips, you may do so by making a donation to Central's Mission Trip Fund by writing "mission trip" on your check memo line.



## It's a Zoo Around Here!

Or at least it was last Wednesday when the traveling Scovill Zoo came to Central. **Charlotte Lyon, Mike Borders** and friends entertained young and old alike as nearly 50 preschoolers and 35 Elderberries enjoyed the soft strokes and gentle bleating of newborn goats, hedgehogs (well, that one wasn't so soft), doves, legless lizards and more. Pictured above are (first photo) **Charlotte Lyon** with Kirby (an aptly named baby goat), **Barbara Flanders** and **Barb Tyler** and (second photo) Mike Borders with a ferret and the preschoolers. Thanks to Charlotte Lyon, a faithful Central member and Zoo volunteer, who made the arrangements to bring the exhibit to Central. Are you involved in an interesting hobby or volunteer opportunity? We are always looking for new ideas for Elderberries programs and would love for you to share your special interest with us. Speak with **Sue Ann Cain** or **Pastor Gretchen** if you have a program you would like to present!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**Finding Our Way Home**

Text: John 14:1-14  
Gretchen Barron

## Celebrating Dorcas

Dorcas women are invited to a "Celebrate Dorcas" meeting on April 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of **Carol Bischoff**. It will be an evening of reminiscing and celebrating the role of Dorcas in the ministry of Central.

Please bring photos and mementoes from past Dorcas years. We will be making remembrance booklets for our special sisters, and we will send greetings to our special friends.

Come for the evening to laugh, love and remember our sisters in the faith.

## Ladies Night Out – Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>!

Members and friends of Central are invited to join together for a delightful meal and night out on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Scholarship Application Deadline

Applications for the Kirby, Schilling and Traylor 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.

## Central Youth

**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. We will begin organizing for our Hoops for Hope project with Hope Academy which will take place in late May.

**Sunday, April 27<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 in Mission: Hoops for Hope**

Hoops of Hope was started in 2004 by then 10-year old Austin Gutwein who wanted to bring awareness and raise funds for the more than 15 million children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. On World AIDS Day 2004, Austin shot over 2000 free throws to represent the more than 2000 kids who were orphaned during his day at school. Since then, Austin has been recruiting other kids to join him and together they have raised over \$350,000 for these children. Central Youth will sponsor a Hoops for Hope Project with students at Hope Academy in late May.

### **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

## **Scouting Recognized Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be recognized during both services on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. For many years Central youth and adults have been active in the scouting programs in our communities. We will recognize current scout members as well as former scout members and scout leaders. All are welcome to wear their scout uniforms to worship as we celebrate scouting.

## **Festival of Hymns, May 4, 4:00 p.m. Central Christian Church**

*Festival of Hymns* by Hal Hopson is a collection of stories about hymn writers combined with their hymns. The Decatur Area Cluster of Disciples Churches is cooperating to present this program at Central Christian Church. Clergy members and some lay people will read the stories. The mass choir and congregation will sing the hymns accompanied by organ, brass group, bells and other stringed instruments. After the singing there will be a time to fellowship. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends.

## **Disciples Class Begins Study on Jesus**

The Disciples Sunday School Class will begin a new series on Jesus, based on the book *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teaching, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* by Dr. Marcus Borg, on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. The series focuses on developing a historical and metaphorical approach to the witness of scripture about the central figure of Christian faith. New insights into the historical person of Jesus and the significance of the Christ of faith are revealed by one of the church's most notable scholars of our time. The series is open to everyone and all are welcome to attend.

## **Tickets on Sale This Week for Sarah's Daughter's Banquet**

Stop at the table in the Friendship Center this Sunday to purchase tickets for the Sarah's Daughter's banquet on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. This annual event is always a popular one as mothers, daughters, aunts, grandmothers and friends gather for a delicious meal and entertaining program. The Fellowship Department has planned a menu of Italian Chicken over Rice, Green Salad, Rolls and Butter and Dessert. The food will be served by the men of Central. **Mark & Katie Beal** are planning the program, a Showcase of Central Talent. Purchase your tickets beginning this Sunday. Tickets are \$6 for Adults and \$3 for children ages 2-10. A nursery attendant will be available for little ones who find it difficult to make it through the evening.

## **One Church One School Update**

Our after school Hope Homework Oasis (H2O) will resume on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Hope Academy. H2O was recently featured on the Byers & Co. radio show Busey Education Spot-light. A pod-cast of the March 28<sup>th</sup> segment is available on the Decatur Public Schools website at [www.dps61.org](http://www.dps61.org) under Our District/District News. H2O assists students from 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade with homework completion, skill practice, tutoring, and character development. H2O meets at Hope Academy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Activities volunteers help with large motor activities in the gym and snack in the cafeteria and arrive by 3:30 p.m. Tutors and Homework helpers arrive by 4 p.m. and help students in the school library and computer lab (computer work for each student is pre-assigned). If you are interested in helping with H2O or working with students during the school day, contact **Pastor Robert** for more information.

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Betty Roe** and family following the April 3<sup>rd</sup> death of her sister-in-law, *Elsie James*.....and to **Doris & Carroll Little** following the April 6<sup>th</sup> death of her brother, *William Ray Valerius*.....and to **Harold & Bess King** following the April 13<sup>th</sup> death of his sister, *Leada Shelton*, in West Frankfort.

## Camp Walter Scott News

A Camp Prep Work Weekend is scheduled for April 26-27 at Camp Walter Scott to prepare for the upcoming camp season for children and youth throughout Illinois and Wisconsin. For more information on how you may help contact Camp Manager **Becky Lewis** at 217-739-2332 or campcciw@yahoo.com

FunFest 2008 is scheduled for Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> as the camp begins the 46<sup>th</sup> year of Christian camping at our facility south of Effingham. The day's events begin at 10 a.m. with closing worship at 2:30 p.m. Boating, fishing, hay rides, camp style games and relaxing in a beautiful setting all await you!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing Benefit will take place on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Angus Links Golf Course in Windsor, IL. Entry fees are \$50 per person or \$200 per team. All proceeds from the outing will be used to fund the Dining Hall Elevator project. For more information about these events, contact **Pastor Robert**. Anyone interested in putting together a team for the golf outing?

## Counting On You

### April 13

Worship Attendance ..... 288  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 73

During the first quarter of 2008, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$152,687 which is \$6012 below the giving goal for the first three months of the year.

Expenses to operate the church the first quarter were \$202,906 which is \$4,820 below the budget amount. After ending the previous three months with a cash balance on hand in the general operating fund, the church slipped into a deficit of \$12,352 at the end of March. Although this is substantially less than deficits experienced in some years, it requires our generous attention.

All outreach commitments through March both locally and globally were paid in full. Gifts to the *Preserving Our Past...Securing Our Future* capital campaign during the first quarter were \$37,061. The church's building fund debt now stands at \$63,575.

Your regular and generous giving keeps Central going! We're counting on you! Be sure to do your best for your church, so that your church can do its best for God.

Detailed monthly financial reports for the congregation and for the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter by the church office in the Friendship Center along with minutes of the last church council meeting. You can always pick up copies and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



## Sunday, April 20, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Daniel Hinze,  
Saxophone; Carol Graham, Piano  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
Marilyn Ward, Piano  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship  
4:30-6:00-Youth Group

## Monday (21)

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room &  
Great Hall

## Tuesday (22)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
(Stitchers are at Retreat Monday,  
Tuesday, & Wednesday this week)  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
7:00-Dorcas, home of Carol Bischoff

## Wednesday (23)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290

## Thursday (24)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Saturday (26)

9:00-3:00-Millikin Children's Choirs,  
Sanctuary

## Note of Thanks Received

To our Christian Friends at Central,  
Thank you all for the many cards  
and prayers at the death of our be-  
loved sister. We appreciated them so  
very much. I would also like to say  
thanks for your cards and prayers  
during my health problems.

**Louise Boline & Rosie Doore**

---

---

## Serving Schedule—April 20, 2008

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Dick Cain, Felicity Williams

### 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 Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Lawrence Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

### 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 - Al & Chris Fagin, Steve & Juanita Ballance

10:45 - Larry & Betty Chapman, Jon & Jane French

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Mike & Gerri Munos Family

**Parish Nurse:** Liz Campbell

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Jim Hinze

**Children's Worship:** Katie Powers

### Preparation of Communion:

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

### 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 23 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

### Hosts:

Apr. 21 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford

12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Apr. 22 9:00-12:30 - Nancy Taylor

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Apr. 23 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Apr. 24 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Apr. 25 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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 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

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.

### With the Sick...

**St. Johns, Springfield, IL:** Jerry Andrews  
**Decatur Memorial Hospital:** Clyde Booher



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

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

