



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, April 23, 2008

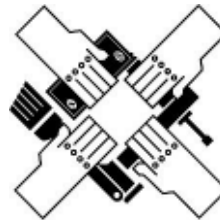
No. 17

Disciples Class Study on Jesus

The Disciples Sunday School Class has begun a new series on Jesus, based on the book *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teaching, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* by Dr. Marcus Borg. The 18 week 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 it is not too late to begin.

Mission Delegation in New Orleans!

Central's Mission delegation is in New Orleans and working hard as you read this update. Throughout the week they will be helping rebuild and repair homes that were damaged and destroyed in 2005 during the hurricanes and aftermath. They are spending the week at Westside Christian Church with another group from the Arizona region of the Christian Church. Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers as they finish this week of mission work and begin the long journey back to Decatur: **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.



Tickets on Sale This Week for Sarah's Daughters Banquet

Stop at the table in the Friendship Center this Sunday to purchase tickets for the Sarah's Daughters Banquet on May 9th 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.



SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Hope for Orphans

Text: John 14:15-21
Robert Bushey

Festival of Hymns

Sunday, May 4, 4:00 p.m.

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.

Scholarship Application Deadline

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.

Millikin Children's Choir Program

Four different choirs ranging in age from primary through high school will perform in concert this Sunday, 2:00 p.m. at Central. These choirs are part of the Millikin University Prep department and are under the direction of **Beth Holmes, Melissa Miller** and **Christine Smith**.

Central Youth

**Sunday, April 27th
Duffer's Dream
4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Central Youth (grs. 6-12) will meet at the church and go to the Scovill Golf Course Driving Range to get into the spring swing! Please, bring your own golf clubs if you have them. Previous experience is not necessary!

**Sunday, May 4th
Cardboard Recycling
Project**

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Youth will collect cardboard for recycling that is brought to the church on Sunday morning. We will unload vehicles near the church garage after the morning worship services. Afterwards we will go for lunch together.

**Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11th
Youth will NOT Meet**

**Youth in Mission:
Hoops of 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 an Hoops of Hope Project with students at Hope Academy in late May.

Robert's Reflections

One of the treasures that we hold dear in our household is a simple red fleece blanket covered with patches earned by Teri's late grandfather, Peter Hoyt, from the Boy Scouts of America. Much like the U.S. Flag that draped his casket at the cemetery honoring his career of military service and was presented to Teri's mother, the blanket of patches which draped his casket in the church representing his many decades of scouting, was presented to Teri after his funeral service several years ago. A memorable moment for our family, we remembered a fine man who understood the value of service for his nation and for his community.

During worship this Sunday, we will recognize the contribution of scouting to our community. Both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are invited to attend and to wear their uniform/patches, etc. Currently active scouts and scout leaders are encouraged to attend both services. Scouting continues to be an excellent way for children and youth to learn the value of humble service and a wonderful opportunity for adults to encourage youth as they reach for their potential as mature persons of faith and contributing members of society.

As followers of the risen Jesus Christ, we value the lessons of humble service for youth and adults alike. As the Apostle Paul noted in the second chapter of his letter to the church at Philippi, we are to "*Think of yourself the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death*" (from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson).

As persons of faith we are called to be humble servants. There is no better place to answer this call than with the foundation for the future of our community, our children and youth. We are called to embody the gifts of patience, joy, kindness, generosity, love and peace – all excellent character traits for youth. I am privileged to witness these gifts embodied by our volunteers as they work with students each week at Hope Academy, to see our youth group embody these gifts as they plan for an amazing outreach opportunity with Hope Academy students in the near future, and to see these gifts embodied by our Youth Sponsors, Childcare Providers, Sunday School staff, Children's Worship leaders and Preschool staff throughout the year. And, that only represents those of you working with children and youth – I could go on and on as we move up the developmental spectrum.

Friends, let us each discern our unique gifts as we hear Christ calling us to humble service. And, may all that we do be a blessing!

Peace & Joy,
Robert

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!

Youth Cardboard Collection Changes

In April, Central Youth covered more than 40 miles on our route with 22 stops in 3 hours. We collected an estimated 160 cubic feet of packed cardboard. We are grateful for the enthusiasm of members who have saved their cardboard for recycling and we wish to continue to encourage your desire to recycle. Due to the overwhelming increase in demand for our cardboard recycling curbside pick-up, and the increasing cost of fuel, we have a need to change our project. This month we will collect cardboard near the church garage on Sunday, May 4th. Youth will be available to unload your vehicle after both morning worship services. Acceptable cardboard includes corrugated, uncoated, clean food containers, dry goods boxes, tissue boxes, etc. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept fast food containers such as cups or french fry boxes. Please, help us by emptying your boxes of foam packaging, tissue paper, or other contents. Boxes should be broken down whenever possible. Remember, the cardboard recycling is a service project and not a fundraiser for our youth.

Summer Church Camp Deadlines Approaching!

Camp Registration Forms are available
in the church office!

Look for our display on the 2nd Floor!

Genesis Camp

for Grades 2-3 - June 4-6 (May 5th)

Shalom Camp

for Grades 9-12 - June 9-14 (May 12th)

Koinonia Camp

for Grades 3-8 - June 23-28 (May 26th)

ADDaMCamp

for Grades 8-12 - June 22-29 (May 26th)

One Church One School Partnership

Our after school Hope Homework Oasis (H2O) is back in session at Hope Academy. H2O assists students from 1st-8th 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.



Sunday, April 27, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: 8:15 Offertory-Central Singers

10:45 Offertory-

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jeannie Backes

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

11:15-Children's Worship

1:00-4:30-Millikin Children's Choirs,

Sanctuary

4:30-6:00-Youth Group

Tuesday (29)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

12:00-Cluster Clergy Lunch,

Disciple Room

4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School

Wednesday (30)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290

12:00-Central Singers

6:30-Ladies Night Out, O'Charley's

Thursday (May 1)

10:00-Alanon, 212

10:15-1:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Rm.

4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School

6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207

7:00-Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, &

Brass Rehearsal

Counting On You

April 20

Worship Attendance 243

Sunday School Attendance 75

Serving Schedule—April 27, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mary Jane Oliver, John Graham

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Elder Mark Beal

Decatur Memorial: Elder Connie Bordner

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 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, Barb Tyler

Greeters:

8:15 - Bev & Merle Chapman, Dennis & Debbie Downey

10:45 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton, Larry & Sally Thicksten

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Al & Chris Fagin

Parish Nurse:

 Jeannie Backes

Children's Worship:

 Christine Lyman-Harm

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

April 30 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

Apr. 28 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Apr. 29 9:00-12:30 - Louise Boline
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Apr. 30 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 1 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson
12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

May 2 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
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.



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

