



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, May 14, 2008

No. 20

## Blessing of Children & Dedication of Parents



**Janine & Andy Boehme** presented their son **Ieuan**, **Ginger Flanders & Bryan Morgan** presented their daughter **McKegan**, **Brian & Kirsten Kilday** presented their son **Declan**, and **Cody & Tessa Mahannah** presented their daughter **Reese** for blessing on Mother's Day.

## Still Time to Join Eclipsing Empire Course

The impact of the Roman Empire upon the early followers of Jesus is key to understanding the development of Christianity. The early Christian world was dominated by the Roman empirical system and thus early Christian thought often reflected the presence of the empire. There is still time for you to join preminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. Eclipsing Empire explores fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman Imperial Theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today. The course, lead by **Pastor Robert Bushey**, will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. The first session will meet on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Those who signed up early have received materials to begin preparing. Sign up today and you will receive your packet of materials before our first lesson.



## Bells in Motion Presents *Bronze Images* at Central, May 25<sup>th</sup>

Bells in Motion will be in concert in Central Christian's sanctuary on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. **Bronze Images** celebrates Bells in Motion's 10<sup>th</sup> season, with music ranging from *Country Gardens* to *I Got Rhythm* and *Fantasy on Kingsfold* to *Blue Rondo a la Turk*, plus an exciting new swing piece by Hart Morris. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10. Join us for this nationally acclaimed handbell ensemble in celebrating the diversity of today's music! For more information, call 217-899-2128 or visit [www.bellsinmotion.org](http://www.bellsinmotion.org).

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**God in 3-D**  
Text: Matthew 28:16-20  
Charles Watkins

## Dorcas Disciples Meet May 27

"We are the Aroma of Christ – opening our days to be used by God" is the theme for the end of the year Dorcas Disciples Women. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, at the Forsyth Public Library, 268 S. Elwood, in Forsyth. Please bring a small scented votive candle, the contents of your Blessing Boxes, and an attitude of joy. We will dedicate the Blessing Boxes, view our "*Remembering Dorcas*" booklets, decide on leadership for next year and enjoy a wonderful meal provided by Basket Case Catering. Reservations for the evening need to be made by May 22, but prepayment to the church office by May 18 would be appreciated. There will be a basket marked DORCAS in the church office on Sunday mornings to place a check made out to Central Christian Church for \$10. Cash needs to be given directly to the church secretaries during the week or to **Julie Martin** on Sunday mornings.

## MUSICAMP is Coming!

The MUSICAMP will be June 9-15 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1329 Arbor Drive. Again this year, we will combine forces with First Baptist Church to present MUSICAMP for children, grades K-6.

Contact **Don Martin** for more information.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
4:30-6 p.m.**

Come celebrate the last week of school before Summer Break gets underway! We will toss a few Frisbees, try out some new hoops, enjoy supper from the grill and more. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### Youth in Mission: Hoops of Hope

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Central Youth will sponsor a Hoops of Hope Project with students at Hope Academy on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Youth will meet at the school at 9 a.m. to help set up and we will finish by 4 p.m. Invite your friends to be a part of this huge event! We will be making a difference in the lives of thousands of children!

### Summer Church Camp Deadlines Are Here!

Camp Registration forms are available in the church office! Look for our display on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor!

#### Shalom Camp

for Grades 9-12

June 9-14 (May 12<sup>th</sup>)

#### Koinonia Camp

for Grades 3-8

June 23-28 (May 26<sup>th</sup>)

#### ADDaM Camp

for Grades 8-12

June 22-29 (May 26<sup>th</sup>)

## Charles's Column

"This may be the most fun you will ever have at a church meeting." That was the way **Fred Spannaus**, our congregation's Vice-President for Mission and Service, opened a meeting of Central's Mission Funding Task Force. This task force is established in the "Policy on Undesignated Bequests and Gifts," and includes representatives from the World Outreach Department and the Christian Action and Community Service Department. The policy provides that after \$3,000 is set aside for a memorial honoring the donor, each bequest is divided three ways with one-third going to Central's Permanent Memorial Fund, one-third going to the Building Fund and one-third going to support World Outreach and/or Social Action projects.

Because of the generosity of four families and individuals who remembered Central in their wills and the interest earned by our Mission Permanent Fund which is invested with Church Extension, the pool of money available for allocation was \$146,000.

Among the projects receiving funds from this meeting are the regional assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin planned for November 14-16 in Springfield, Faith in Action of Macon County, our denomination's *Heartbeats of Faith* capital campaign ([www.heartbeatsofffaith.com](http://www.heartbeatsofffaith.com)), the ministry of **Bruce & Linda Hanson** our Global Ministries mission partners in Honduras, a scholarship program established at Central by **John & Jan Baird** to bring African students to the United States to attend college, our Week of Compassion response to the devastating cyclone which struck Myanmar/Burma last week, OASIS Day Center for homeless people in Decatur, Central Christian Preschool, matching funds for the amount raised for the *Hoops of Hope* project to help children orphaned by A.I.D.S., Decatur's Neighborhood Housing Development Corporation (NHDC), Macon County Assistance Exchange (MAX), and Good Samaritan Inn.

It is fun to give away money for vital ministries and worthy programs to meet human needs. It is also fun to be part of a faithful congregation that has mission outreach built into its DNA. And it will be fun to share with you in coming weeks some of the good works these funds will accomplish.

If you name Central Christian Church in your will, you may designate the purpose for which you want your gift used, and the church will honor your designation. If you do not designate how your gift is to be used, then it will be divided among the Permanent Memorial Fund, the Building Fund, and the Mission Projects Fund. Each of us can have the fun of being generous to our church and its ministries locally and globally. Have you remembered Central in your will?

*Charles Watkins*

## Power Up for Vacation Bible School!

We are proud to announce that Central will be having a Vacation Bible School August 4-8, from 9:00-11:45 a.m. There will be science, snacks, music and more. Please come and learn about the sensational new format that Group's "Power Lab" offers. This is a *VERY DIFFERENT* kind of program and everyone will want to be involved in some way!

We will meet on May 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. All are welcome to learn about the "power" we can give to our church family through VBS! Please contact **Katie Powers** with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

## News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Jessica Brooks, Jennifer Hoyt, and Ashley Swallow** who were named to the National Junior Honor Society at Warrensburg-Latham Middle School. Proud parents are **Randy & Shirley Brooks, Jim & Brenda Hoyt, and Brett & Kelly Swallow.**

Proud great-grandmother, **Barbara Tyler** announces the May 7<sup>th</sup> birth of her great-granddaughter, **Natalie Grace Mohr** to **Amanda & Kevin Mohr.** Natalie is also welcomed home by big brother **Kody**, big sister **Katie**, and grandparents **Cliff & Vickie Entz.**

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Mike Sperry** and family following the May 7<sup>th</sup> death of his father-in-law, *John Armstrong*, preceded in death by his daughter, *Janice Sperry*.....and to **Brett & Angie** (Wilmot) **Thompson** and family, following the May 8<sup>th</sup> death of Brett's father, *Richard Thompson* of Oreana, IL.

## Central's Diaconate Receives Note of Thanks

A pat on the back and a hearty "Thank you, well done" to the Diaconate of Central for the senior members luncheon. The meal was delicious, the Simcox travelogue was informative and the opportunity for fellowship among those who attended was really appreciated. All in all, it was an enjoyable two-hour program.

Your friend in Christ,  
**Roe Skidmore**

## Central Youth Receive Matching Grant

Central Youth submitted a request for matching funds from undesignated bequests for the Hoops of Hope project that they are sponsoring at Hope academy. The youth were awarded a matching grant up to \$4500. Central Youth and their friends will host a Hoops of Hope event at the school on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Each classroom of children in Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will be allowed to participate during the day. You may participate in Hoops of Hope as well! You may sponsor a grade level with a donation through Central (forms available in the Friendship Center), you may volunteer to help at the event, or you may donate directly online through our website or at [www.firstgiving.com/decaturohope](http://www.firstgiving.com/decaturohope). Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to help build a medical lab and voluntary counseling center, as well as provide 1,000 remote medical care kits and 1,000 bicycles in Northern Africa, an area devastated by HIV/AIDS. Help our youth bring hope to thousands of orphans by sponsoring our Hoops of Hope event!

## Oasis Day Center Update

After the Town Hall meeting that was held at Central recently, the funding shortage for Oasis Day Center for the homeless has been decreased by fifty percent. Pledged gifts during the past week have reduced our shortfall of \$160,000 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Oasis will face reduction in service or may have to close if the funding shortfalls are not found. Central has pledged to be a community partner with a gift of \$5,000 per year for the next five years. Oasis is currently open 365 days a year and serves nearly 500 individuals every month. For more information about Oasis Day Center, contact **Pastor Robert.**



## Sunday, May 18, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Leslie Peart, Organ;  
John Baird, Piano  
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  
4:30-Youth Group

## Monday (19)

7:00-Scholarship & Awards Meeting,  
Volunteer Room

## Tuesday (20)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
12:00-5:00-Baby Talk-Millikin Class,  
Disciple Room  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
4:00-Phoenix II, Great Hall  
6:00-Leadership Group, Disciple Room

## Wednesday (21)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
11:30-Leadership Group, Disciple Room  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:30-Fellowship Dept., Volunteer Room  
6:30-Women's Ministry, Volunteer Room  
6:30-Preschool End of Year Party,  
Great Hall & Disciple Room

## Thursday (22)

10:00-Leadership Group, Disciple Room  
10:00-Alanon, 212  
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
4:30-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Room  
5:30-Baby Talk Pre-K, Disciple Room  
5:30-Leadership Group, 290  
6:00-VBS Informational Meeting,  
Great Hall  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Counting On You

### May 11

Worship Attendance ..... 315  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 61

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## Serving Schedule—May 18, 2008

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Kevin Wilmot, Mike Holbrook

### 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 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 9 - Bruce Stoddard, Capt., Carol Stoddard, Kevin Miller, Kim Miller, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, York Powers

### Greeters:

8:15 - Morris & Willie Birkhead, Don & Brenda Tankersley

10:45 - Donna Strong, Sid Rotz, Marylu Lyman

### Parish Nurse:

 Jeannie Backes

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Larry Pepper

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Bill & Mary Alice Rule

### Children's Worship:

 Katie Powers

### Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Carol Charlton, Don & Virginia Swallow

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

**May 21 Visitor Mailing Crew:** Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

### Hosts:

May 19 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray

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

May 20 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

May 21 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

May 22 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

May 23 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**  
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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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