



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, October 29, 2008

No. 44



“Fall Back” This Sunday

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. this Sunday, November 2. Please set your alarm clock back one hour before you retire on Saturday evening. If you forget, the sanctuary will be open for prayer and the library for reading whenever you arrive at church this Sunday.

All Saints

This Sunday we will celebrate the lives of all the saints through the ages, and especially those who have passed into the life eternal this year from our congregation. The fifteenth annual edition of Central’s Report on Special Gifts *For All the Saints*, will be distributed with the worship bulletin this Sunday. The names of Central members who have gone to glory since last All Saints Day will be included in the Litany of Saints following the *Gloria Patri*. Join the celebration of all the saints this Sunday.

Hear a Great Artist!

James McVinnie, the Assistant Organist for Westminster Abbey in London will appear in concert on the Diller Memorial Organ in our sanctuary on Sunday, November 16, at 4 p.m. This concert, by one of the outstanding organists of the world, is open to the public without charge, and especially to your family, friends, and neighbors whom you invite to join you for the wonderful music.



It is Time for Dorcas Soup Days Again!

We invite interested women to come at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, to the Great Hall to experience “*Helping Each Other Hear God’s Voice*.” We will share a simple meal of bread and soup, followed by soup preparation for our Saturday delivery to shut ins – our mentors in the faith who helped and help us now to hear the voice of God and God’s love for us. Some of the group will prepare “gifts” to send with the soup. Saturday, November 15, we will gather at 9:00 a.m. to package the boxes and deliver the meals. Last year’s Soup Days were so much fun! Please join us on the 11th and /or the 15th. The more hands the merrier!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

They in Glory Shine

Text: Revelation 7:9-17

Charles Watkins

Breakfast/Lunch Book Discussion to Begin Sunday, November 30th

Pastor Robert will host a three week Breakfast or Lunch and Discussion on *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan on Sundays, November 30th, at 7:30-8:30 a.m., December 7th and December 14th at 7-7:45 a.m. and 12 noon in the Disciple Room. Continental breakfast items will be provided. Lunch plans will be decided upon by those who register in advance. Borg and Crossan help us to see the well-known Christmas narrative afresh by answering the question, “What do these stories mean” in the context of both the first century and the twenty-first century. The 244 page book is organized in three parts and we will discuss one part per week. Books may be ordered in advance for \$12 by signing up in the Friendship Center before November 16th. Copies may be purchased through Amazon.com and other on-line vendors. If there is enough interest, a mid-week lunch discussion will be made available as well.

“*The First Christmas* is definitely one of my top ten favorite books written by contemporary scholars for people of faith. Borg and Crossan tell this remarkable narrative of the advent of Jesus in such a way that I am finally able to make sense of it for my life as a Christian today.” **-Pastor Robert**



Central Youth

**Sunday, November 2nd
Indoor Golf Tournament
4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 9th
4:30-6:00 p.m.**
Central Youth will meet for
food and fellowship.

**Sunday, November 23rd
Community Thanksgiving
Basket Project
4:30-8:00 p.m.**

We will help assemble
3,600 food baskets for
Decatur Area families in need.
Afterwards, we will join our
friends from First United
Methodist Church for a movie
in the Great Hall.

The Big Dig Continues

Central's Junior High Sunday School class, *The Big Dig* continues this Sunday in Room 290. During the dig we have discovered the story of the lost Ark of the Covenant and in November we will begin our pursuit of the Holy Grail.

Come Join the Circle Begins *Rainbow Promise*

Central's Elementary Sunday School classes have begun a new unit entitled the Rainbow Promise which retells the story of Noah. Children grades K-5 rotate through three learning centers each week as they experience the story through various media. Come join the Circle in Room 260 this Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Charles's Column

Everybody who lives in a house or apartment knows that it's always something. Things break, fall apart, and become irreparable because, "they don't make parts for that any more." And then when you have fixed a problem, after just a few short years, it's not fixed any more. Just as it is at your house, so it is at God's house. No, no, I don't mean the house "not made with hands, eternal and in the heavens." No, I mean God's house at the corner of William and Monroe in Decatur. For fifteen years we have conducted a capital campaign every three years to address major renovations and repairs to the excellent facilities developed by this congregation over the last half century. We get things pretty well fixed up, and then something else happens.

After Hurricane Ike wrecked Galveston and the Texas coast, it visited us in Decatur. In the process of receiving about seven inches of rain on a Sunday morning, we found that some minor problems we have been dealing with at Central are not so minor any more. You may have noticed crumbs of plaster on the back pews of the sanctuary and the balcony carpet as well as a growing splotch of peeling paint on the south wall of the balcony. We thought it was a leak in the roof, so we called back the roofers to fix it, and they found the roof in excellent condition with the copper flashings in perfect order. "It's not the roof," they told us. So what is it?

After several months of investigation and seeking proposals, the conclusion is that the Kirkland Bell Tower has serious brick-and-mortar problems allowing water to soak through the walls of the tower and leak through the walls of the sanctuary and two adult class rooms on the second floor. We have a number of problem parapets where limestone and brick surfaces meet, and now we have a plan to fix all the problems with the tower.

The Board of Trustees and the Property Department have accepted a proposal from Western Water Proofing to replace cracked bricks and failed tuckpointing as well as spalling stone and brick surfaces. The Trustees have decided to include these repairs in the current 2006-2009 capital campaign as well as the next one for 2009-2012. The bell tower from top to bottom will be repaired and water-proofed beginning this week. Maybe you won't even have to hear about it for ten more years.

All you have to do is support the Building Fund at your church. If you fulfill your building fund giving plan or make additional gifts to it, you can help keep the tallest structure in Decatur west of Monroe standing proudly for another fifty years! Oh yes! And pray for the safety of the workers high in the air around the tower. Thank you for your generosity to your church!

Charles Watkins

Central Christian Preschool Holds Book Fair

It is time for Central Christian Preschool's annual book fair. The Book Fair will be open Monday, November 3rd – Thursday, November 6th, Monday, November 10th – Thursday, November 13th and Monday, November 17th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. We will be open on Sunday, November 9th from 9:30 a.m.- Noon for church members, if you would like to purchase books or just browse. A preschool representative needs to be present for you to purchase books. This is the preschool's only fundraiser of the year. All proceeds go to the preschool for materials and equipment. Books make great gifts and there is something for everyone!

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Dean & Janet Gray** following the October 23rd death of Dean's sister, *Kathleen Ferris*.....and to the family of *E. Richard Funk* following his death on October 25th.

Plan Now for Regional Assembly

You are invited to join your regional church family when it gathers in assembly November 14-16, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield under the theme *Facing Frontiers Faithfully*. Assembly speakers will include the **Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins**, the 7th General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) elected and installed at the 2005 General Assembly in Portland. The **Rev. Dr. Beth Dobyns**, Acting Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin will present her biennial report on the state of the church. The **Rev. Dr. Richard H. Lowery**, interim dean and vice-president of Lexington Theological Seminary and a scholar of the texts and traditions of ancient Israel will also address the assembly.

Register now for the assembly and for housing at either the Crowne Plaza Hotel or nearby at the Holiday Inn Express. The registration forms are available on our region's website: www.cciwdisciples.org, or our church office can print one off for you.

YDOC Discusses Contemporary Issues

The **Young Disciples of Christ** class for Young Adults 18-30something plus meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 211. The class has informal discussion of a topic introduced in the Faithlinks Curriculum and facilitated by **Ed Acheson** and **Kevin Wilmot**. Participants may have the discussion guide emailed to them in advance. Join YDOC this Sunday!

H2O to Begin November 4th

Our after school tutoring partnership with the Education Coalition of Decatur at Hope Academy will begin on Tuesday, November 4th. Thirty students in 2nd -7th have been invited to begin working with our volunteers on math and reading skills every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:30 p.m. -4:45 p.m. Volunteers are still needed to help tutor students. Contact **Pastor Robert** or **Shirley Swarthout** if you are interested or for more information.

Notes of Thanks Received

Thank you to the ministers for their visits and prayers, while Edwin was in the hospital. We really appreciated it! He is home now and doing better and welcomes company.

Maria & Edwin Jacobs

Thank you for the cards and calls – even the calls left on my answering machine, because I can play them again for a quick “pick me up.” Thank you, too, for the prayers, because they are being answered: I got my call that I get to go to Mayo the first of November.

Barbara Brooks



Sunday, November 2, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Kinzie Sellers, French Horn; Janice Mitchell, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir, Kinzie Sellers & Janice Mitchell
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jeannie Backes
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
9:30-YDOC Class, Room 211
9:30-Parish Nurse Meeting, Parlor
11:15-Children's Worship
12:00-New Member Dinner, Great Hall
4:30-Youth Indoor Golf

Monday (3)

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

Tuesday (4)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

Wednesday (5)

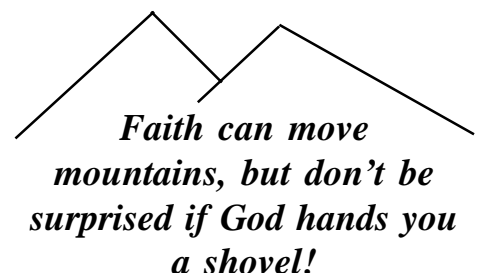
9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Central Singers
6:30-LTQ Class, Great Hall

Thursday (6)

10:00-Alanon, 212
10:15-1:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Rm.
5:15-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (8)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast Meeting, Disciple Room



Serving Schedule—November 2, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Kevin Wilmot, Claudia Quigg

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Kevin Miller & Dick Cain

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, 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 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 - HH & Hilary Critchfield, Rita Woods, Donna Dash

10:45 - Sid Rotz, Barbara Tyler, David & Katie Miller

Parish Nurse: Jeannie Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Dave & Christy Hanson

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Carole Holbrook, Kim Miller, Yvonne Purcell, Nancy Taylor

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

November 5 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

Hosts:

Nov. 3 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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

Nov. 5 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Nov. 6 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Nov. 7 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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, Sean Beal Childcare Providers
Lindsey Compton, Hannah Fitch Childcare Providers
Shelly Messmore Preschool Director
Trudy Garland, Paula Gruen Preschool Teachers
Wendy Jalley, Jennifer Van Dyke Preschool Teachers
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.

Counting On You
October 26

Worship Attendance 284
Sunday School Attendance 78



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