



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, November 5, 2008

No. 45

## Welcome Jamie Back!

When Central organist **Leslie Peart** approached **James McVinnie** in London last summer to ask the Assistant Organist for Westminster Abbey to come to Decatur and present a concert on our Diller Memorial Organ, his immediate response was, "Yes, I know that organ!" It turns out that Mr. McVinnie came to Decatur to accompany the Choir of Clare College Cambridge when they sang in our sanctuary with the Millikin Choir.

James McVinnie will appear in concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, November 16, at 4 p.m. This concert by one of the outstanding young 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.



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008**

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**Sustaining the Light**

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Robert Bushey

## Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal and program and delightful fellowship together on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Roast Chicken and Dressing, Strawberry Pretzel Salad, Green Bean Casserole, Rolls and Butter and Pumpkin Pie with whipped topping. The food is lovingly prepared by the hands of Central volunteers and the meal is just \$4 per person (the best deal in town). Following lunch, **Joel Hendricks** of the Clinton Sioux Indians will be with us to speak about Native American Traditions. To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this Sunday. If you think you would like to come but are not yet sure, please go ahead and make a reservation. We would rather have food left over than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

## All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

The Fellowship Department invites you and your family to an all church Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, immediately following the 10:45 worship service. Turkey, dressing, gravy, rolls and beverage will be provided by the Fellowship Department. Each family is asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert, enough to feed the Disciples! Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday and plan to join your church family on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**T**hanksgiving

## Join the Children's Christmas Workshop, December 6<sup>th</sup>

The Christian Education Department is sponsoring a Children's Christmas Workshop on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to Noon for children, ages 3 yrs. – 11 yrs. Children will be able to make Christmas gifts for their parents and siblings. The cost for the workshop is \$5 per child. Mark your calendar today and watch for your chance to register soon.

Elves and helpers are needed to assist the children with their projects. A sign up sheet is available in the Friendship Center or you may volunteer by calling the church office at 428-4336.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>  
4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Central Youth will meet for food and fellowship.

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
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.

**2009 Christian Youth  
Fellowship (CYF)  
Mid-Winter Retreat  
January 17 -19, 2009**  
For High School Youth  
at First Christian Church,  
Pontiac, IL  
See **Pastor Robert**  
for details

## 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!

## Robert's Reflections

As I write this column to meet our publication deadline, I am anxiously awaiting yesterday – November 4<sup>th</sup> – Election Day. Mailed on the day after the votes were cast, some of you are receiving this edition of the *Central Visitor* with hearts ready to celebrate, for your choice for leadership was chosen and you are looking forward to the next four years. To you I say, congratulations and may God's infinite wisdom shine upon the one you have chosen for the leadership of our nation. For some of you, the results of the election are anything but celebratory. Your choice for leadership was not chosen and you are perhaps dreading the next four years. To you I say, take heart and be thankful that you live in a nation where the process of choosing our next leader may be accomplished peacefully without violent and deadly conflict.

Whether or not your choice for leadership was chosen, the election season has finally come to a close. By the time you read this most if not all of the colorful yard signs will be cleared away, the ads on television and radio will have silenced and the constant calls from "out of area" or "unknown caller" with recorded messages supporting one candidate or slamming another will have ceased. Sorry, but the telemarketing/sales calls, that arrive under those names on the caller ID are likely to continue.

The first century hearers of Jesus' teachings about life that was radically different from the Roman ideology which ruled their homelands, were not so fortunate to live in a time when citizens were granted the opportunity, much less the right, to vote. Under the domination system of Roman provincial rule, the first students of Jesus were ruled by fear of Roman aggression or extreme taxation ordered by a deified emperor. It was in this context that Jesus taught his disciples and others about the coming of the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God, for Jesus, was not some utterly futuristic utopian form of government that could only possibly exist outside of the bounds of earthly life. The Kingdom of God was not equivalent to a life after death. The Kingdom of God was very much a *here and now* reality with God present in and through the living witness of the faithful. And there are our marching orders.

Regardless of how many red or blue states there were on the map this week, as people of faith our mission remains the same: to witness to the reality of God present in our world through healthy relationships built on justice, righteousness, generosity, mercy, love and peace. When we build healthy relationships, when we participate in the mission of loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth, then red or blue we are serving the same God, we are carrying with us the realm of God's abundant living. May we walk humbly with God together as we worship and serve the Lord!

Peace & Joy, **Robert**

## Single Service November 30th

On the last Sunday of this month, the congregation will unite in a single worship service at 10 am for **Hanging of the Greens**, the ritual decoration of the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. An abundance of beautiful music, readings, and flying banners, wreaths, garlands and ribbons will officially begin the new liturgical year and prepare our house of worship for the coming of Christ. A wonderful "tasting party" in the Friendship Center will follow the single worship service that morning.

## Next at Just Flicks – November 9th

*The Ox Bow Incident*, voted among of the best films of all time, is next in the Just Flicks 2008-09 series. Made in 1943, *The Ox Bow Incident* is based on a true incident that happened in Montana in the late 1880s. Two drifters are passing through a Western town, when news comes in that a local farmer has been murdered and his cattle stolen. The townspeople, joined by the drifters, form a posse to catch the perpetrators. They find three men in possession of the cattle, and are determined to see justice done on the spot. This films shows Sunday, November 9, at 6 pm in the Great Hall. **Judy Beaman** will lead our discussion.

## Day Six Banner

The final banner in the *Seven Days of Creation* series for Pentecost was hung in the sanctuary last week. The image represented is the double helix, the shape of our existence, our DNA. It is the means by which our chromosomes are ordered. The pattern of these molecules is how all living things are created. The double helix pattern is the means by which the Creator makes us, and it is also how we are each made unique. A pamphlet interpreting all six banners is currently being printed.

## H2O Underway!

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

## Advent Book Discussion to Begin Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a three week Advent Book Discussion on *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about the Birth of Jesus* by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan on Sundays, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30-8:30 am, December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7-7:45 am and 12 pm in the Disciples Room. Continental breakfast items will be provided for the early group. Lunch plans will be decided upon by those who register in advance. Borg and Crossan help us to see the well-know 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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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**



## Sunday, November 9, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Hannah Fitch, Soprano  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
9:30-12:00-Preschool Book Fair  
11:15-Children’s Worship  
12:00-Friends Luncheon, Great Hall  
4:30 - Youth  
6:00-Just Flicks, Great Hall

## Monday (10)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn  
6:30-Bowling, PlaMor Lanes  
6:30-Boy Scouts, DR & GH

## Tuesday (11)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors’ Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor’s Study  
5:00-C.A.D.V. Meeting, Disciple Room  
6:00-Dorcas Soup Making, Great Hall  
& Kitchen

## Wednesday (12)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240  
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:00-Stewardship Department, Disciple Room  
6:00-7:30-Preschool Pajama Party,  
Preschool Wing  
6:30-LTQ Class, Great Hall

## Thursday (13)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
3:30-H2O, Hope School  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (14)

6:00-Wedding Rehearsal

## Saturday (15)

8:00-Dorcas Soup Packing, Kitchen  
4:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Kelly Seger &  
Michael Bantz

## News from the pews.....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Dorothy Cargill** and family following the October 30th death of her brother, *Dr. Arthur Ramsey Williamson* of Lincoln.

## Counting On You

### November 2

Worship Attendance ..... 297  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 62

## Serving Schedule—November 9, 2008

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Connie Bordner, Randy Brooks

### Communion to Shut-Ins:

#### Deacons

Ron Oliver  
Debbie Seaberg  
Connie Shields  
David Shields  
Max Sperry  
Claudia Curry  
Carol McClure  
Kelly Swallow  
Gene Garver  
Jared Carter

#### Elders

Claudia Quigg  
Brett Swallow  
Mike Holbrook  
Kevin Miller  
Rebecca Johnston  
Mark Beal  
Janet Lyman  
Jo Carter  
Dick Cain  
Alternate: Jan Dobbs

### Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Larry Chapman, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Carol McClure, Debbie Seaberg, 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, Andrew Otis, Kevin Ann Otis, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Ushers:

8:15 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski  
10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Capt., Pam Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Greeters:

8:15 - Dennis & Debbie Downey, Barbara Beyer, Virginia Griffith  
10:45 - Carroll & Doris Little, Carol Charlton, Mary Boyle

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos  
10:45 - Rachel Ash

### P.A. Operator:

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

### Preparation of Communion:

Carole Holbrook, Kim Miller, Yvonne Purcell, Nancy Taylor

### Fellowship Coffee: Al & Chris Fagin

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders  
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot  
10:45 service only - Richard Ward

### November 12 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

### Hosts:

Nov. 10 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Nov. 11 9:00-12:30 - Carol Charlton  
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer  
Nov. 12 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith  
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward  
Nov. 13 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry  
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd  
Nov. 14 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King  
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  
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.



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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

