



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, November 12, 2008

No. 46

## Hear James McVinnie This Sunday

**James McVinnie**, the Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey and Director of Music at the Church of St. Andrew, Holborn, will appear in concert in our sanctuary this Sunday, November 16, at 4pm. Previously he held organ scholarships at St. Albans Cathedral, Clare College Cambridge, and St. Paul's Cathedral in London. He has made a number of albums with various choral groups. He has an increasingly busy schedule as an organ soloist and continuo player, working regularly with many of London's professional choirs and orchestras. Find additional information at [www.westminster-abbey.org/music/people/34670](http://www.westminster-abbey.org/music/people/34670)



Sunday's 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.



## 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>.

## Spirit of Christmas 2008

Preparations are under way for Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion for 2008. Plan now to participate in this wonderful outreach ministry by either "adopting" one or more persons to share your spirit of giving with gifts that you provide, or by giving a cash donation to the program by marking your check made payable to the church with *Spirit* in the memo space. We are anticipating sharing with 90 children and adults from Webster-Cantrell Hall, Decatur Township Assistance, and the DPS #61 Phoenix II alternative school for teen moms which meets on our campus. Gift tags will be available in the Friendship Center beginning Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged by Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The gifts will be dedicated on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008**

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**The High Cost of Fear**

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Charles Watkins

## Way to Go, Central!

A most generous offering on the first Sunday of November cut the accumulated operating deficit for 2008 in half! Two more Sundays like that can restore our congregation to sound financial footing and set the stage for ending a third year in a row in the black. Please do your very best for Central this month. You have done it before, and you can do it again. Thank you for all your gifts to your church.

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

Join **Pastor Robert** 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 a.m., December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7-7:45 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Disciple 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-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. Books may be ordered in advance for \$12 by signing up in the Friendship Center by November 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
No Youth Activities  
(Central Youth Attending  
Regional Assembly)

**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.

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**  
4:30-7 p.m.

We will meet at the church and travel to First Christian Church in Blue Mound for food, fun and fellowship.

**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

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**Senior High  
Heifer Ranch Trip**  
**Perryville, AK**  
**June 13-21, 2009**  
Watch for Details  
coming soon...

## Charles's Column

Accolades and awards are flowing in to praise your generosity as a congregation to the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). One letter from our regional church announces that Central will be awarded a Certificate of Recognition at the Regional Assembly Banquet this Saturday evening at the regional assembly in Springfield. In honoring you, the letter notes that "congregations who have led the Illinois-Wisconsin Region in the areas of increased attendance and outreach giving set a great example for other Disciples of Christ churches."

Another letter from the Office of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) announces: "Congratulations! Your congregation was among the top percentage givers to Disciples Mission Fund in 2007. Your congregation reported \$671,710 in local operating receipts, and you contributed \$76,150 to Disciples Mission Fund. We are pleased to welcome you into the inaugural class of the Centennial Giving Society.

"The Centennial Giving Society celebrates 100 years since the initial conversation regarding a common mission fund for the Christian Church. The first common fund, Unified Promotion, took over thirty years of conversation and coordination to create. The common fund agreement encouraged congregations to contribute ten percent or more of their local receipts in support of the wider church mission. Today, Unified Promotion is known as the Disciples Mission Fund.

"Through your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, you supported:

- ✓ Missionaries in over 80 countries
- ✓ Our recovery work along the gulf coast
- ✓ Transformed lives through leadership training events
- ✓ Addition of new members into the body of Christ through our witness and service
- ✓ Church camps for children and youth
- ✓ Colleges and seminaries in their development of new leaders
- ✓ Search and call for pastors and congregations
- ✓ Disciples New Church Ministries
- ✓ Vital ministries through regions to congregations in transition
- ✓ The legacy of service and presence at the ecumenical table
- ✓ The General Board in its work to chart a course for future ministry
- ✓ A list of ministries and transforming events that goes on and on."

So once again, Central, **congratulations** on your generosity, your witness, and your example to our entire denomination!

*Charles Watkins*

**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. Register this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

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.

**Parish Nurse’s Corner**

Your Parish Nurse committee is currently looking for ways to better serve our congregation, so if you have ideas, please let us know by calling the church office (428-4336) and leaving your message with Pat or Valerie.



One idea was to provide our congregation with medication cards on which you record every medication you take, its dose, and time of day you take it. Any one who takes prescription medication should carry something similar to this with you at all times. The cards will be available from the Parish Nurse beginning Sunday, November 16, or from the church office beginning November 17.

**Single Service November 30<sup>th</sup> for Hanging of the Greens**

The last Sunday of this month, the congregation will unite in a single worship service at 10 a.m. 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.

**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!

**Counting On You**

**November 9**

Worship Attendance ..... 275  
 Sunday School Attendance ..... 70



**Sunday, November 16, 2008**

8:15 and 10:45- Worship Services  
 Music: Offertory- Marilyn Mertz & Marilyn Ward, Piano Duet  
 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  
 4:00- James McVinnie Organ Concert, Sanctuary

**Monday (17)**

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

**Tuesday (18)**

9:00- ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
 10:00- Pastors’ Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor’s Study  
 5:15- 175th Anniversary Task Force, Disciple Room

**Wednesday (19)**

9:00- Baby Talk Parents, 240  
 11:00-3:00- Phoenix II Luncheon  
 12:00- Central Singers  
 12:00- Web Task Force, Volunteer Room  
 5:30- Stephen Ministers, 211  
 6:30- LTQ Class, Great Hall  
 7:00- Unbinding Your Heart Planning Meeting, Disciple Room

**Thursday (20)**

10:00- Alanon, 212  
 5:45- Church Council, Disciple Room  
 6:00- Chancel Bells  
 6:30- Family Fun Night, Great Hall  
 6:30- World Outreach, Volunteer Room  
 7:00- Chancel Choir

**Friday (21)**

6:00-9:00- Emmaus Gathering, Disciple Room

**Saturday (22)**

9:00- Thanksgiving Dinner Preparation, Kitchen & Great Hall

---

---

**Serving Schedule—November 16, 2008**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Bruce Campbell, Jan Dobbs

**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 Swarhout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Lawrence Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

**Ushers:**

8:15 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, 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 - Al & Chris Fagin, Don & Brenda Tankersley

10:45 - Brett & Kelly Swallow Family, Bruce & Felicity Williams

**Parish Nurse:** Liz Campbell

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Glen & Jody Featherstun

**Acolytes:**

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

Carole Holbrook, Kim Miller, Yvonne Purcell, Nancy Taylor

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

**November 19 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

Nov. 17 9:00-12:30 - Sue Ann Cain

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

Nov. 18 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

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

Nov. 19 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Nov. 20 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Nov. 21 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  
Jane Latshaw ..... Parish Nurse Coordinator  
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.



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

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

