



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, December 3, 2008

No. 49

You're Invited to Come Home for Christmas

You and your family are invited to Come Home to Central on Sunday, December 21st. This year, our Fellowship and Shepherding departments will host a delicious brunch at 9:15 a.m. and an equally delightful lunch at noon, both in the Great Hall. The menu will include Baked Ham, Hash Brown Casserole and Croissants. Added with the brunch will be Scrambled Eggs and Fruit Salad and the lunch will also include Jello Salad, vegetables and dessert. More information and a response card should have arrived in your mailbox this week. Please return your reservation card soon, even if you're not able to attend. Deadline for registration for either meal is December 14th. Mark your calendar and plan now to Come Home to Central for Christmas!



Music for a Merry Christmas

Our church's traditional candle-light "Music for a Merry Christmas" concert is on Sunday afternoon, December 21 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Featured artists include our virtuosic organist **Leslie Peart** along with excellent vocalists **Connie Bordner, Karen Driver, Janice Mitchell, and Lucien Smith**. The concert will include holiday favorites played and sung in an English Country Gothic sanctuary lit by candles and the

joy of the season. This is a perfect occasion to introduce your friends and family to your church. Your guests will thank you for inviting them to this free concert.

Please Help in December!

At the end of November, members who turned in Estimate of Giving Cards for 2008 still had \$106,852.65 to go in December to fulfill their giving plans. That means that if everyone will give Central what they planned to give this year, and any who are able will make extra gifts, we will pay all our obligations for December and be financially solvent for the third year in a row.

This week contributing members receive in the mail a progress report on each giving plan through November 30. If you do not get a grateful acknowledgement of all your gifts so far this year, please phone the church office today to have a copy mailed to you. If you have not yet fulfilled what your Estimate of Giving Card indicated for 2008, your success in achieving your goal will help keep your church "in the black" for successful completion of another year.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**News Too Good to
Keep to Ourselves**

Text: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Gretchen Barron

Congregational Meeting

The congregation will meet on Sunday, December 14 at 11:55 a.m. in the Great Hall to vote on the proposed budget for 2009. All members of the church are encouraged to attend and vote.

Children's Christmas Cookie Workshop

The Children's Christmas Cookie Workshop will be held **December 13th** from **9:30 a.m.-Noon**. Children ages 5 yrs. – 11 yrs. will be baking Christmas cookies, singing favorite carols and watching Christmas classics in the Great Hall Theater. A sign up sheet is available in the Friendship Center or you may sign up by calling the church office at 428-4336. Volunteers are needed to staff several stations for cookie baking during the morning. Contact **Pastor Robert** for more information.



Central Youth

Sunday, December 7th
No Youth Activities

**Saturday,
December 13th**

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Central Youth are invited to help children make cookies during the Children's Christmas Workshop. We will help with Christmas games and a carol sing as well.

Sunday, December 14th
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroling

Central Youth will bring tidings of comfort and cheer to members.



Sunday, December 21st
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Central Youth will gather at Pastor Robert's house for Dinner and Christmas Fun. Bring two pairs of new socks, one for an exchange and one or more to give to the Dove Clothing Room.

**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**

Ladies Night Out – Tuesday, December 9th!

Members and friends of Central are invited to join together for a delightful meal and night out on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. at Junz Asian Grill in Forsyth (corner of Weaver Rd. and Hwy. 51). Great food, laughter, fellowship and door prizes guaranteed! Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center!

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, December 10th!

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, December 10th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu includes Ham Balls, Sweet Potato Casserole, Salad, Rolls and Butter and Dessert. 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, our own Central Singers will usher in the season with delightful Holiday music. To sign up, you will need to call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming 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 leftover than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, December 8th, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

Poinsettias Ready for Pick Up

If you ordered poinsettias earlier this fall, they will be at the church and available for you to pick up this Sunday. The plants will be located in the Heritage Center. Please check the list on the table to make sure you know how many and which type you ordered and mark a check by your name so that we know you've picked them up. Please make every effort to pick them up this weekend. It would be a shame for your beautiful plant to wilt during the week for lack of water and attention. We thank you for your support of future mission trips and hope you enjoy the beautiful plants as they help bring holiday joy into your home!



Spirit of Christmas Wrapping Up

Central's *Spirit of Christmas* ministry of giving and compassion is in the home stretch. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged by Wednesday, December 10th. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in this annual holiday tradition, you may do so by donating to the Spirit of Christmas Fund. We will dedicate the gifts on Sunday, December 14th during our morning worship services.





News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Catherine Harris** and family following the November 28th death of her husband, **Charles Harris, Jr.**

Alternative Gift Giving Market Open this Sunday!

The 2008 Alternative Gift Market will be open this Sunday, December 7th. You are invited to make a tax-deductible donation to one of our seven worthy outreach organizations in honor of someone for the holiday season. Our community is truly blessed by several local agencies that we partner in mission and ministry with. This year you may purchase alternative gifts in honor of your loved ones from Baby Talk, Christ Care Stitchers, Dove, Good Samaritan Inn, Habitat for Humanity, the Oasis Day Center for the homeless, and Heifer International, which provides solutions to the root causes of hunger and poverty globally.

Here's how the program works: browse the gift opportunities in the Friendship Center, stop by the Alternative Gift Market near the West Entrance; make a donation in someone's name to one of our seven organizations; and we will provide you with a certificate or card to send to your loved one telling them of the wonderful gift you have made in their honor for the holidays. It is really that simple! Plan now to make Alternative Gift Giving a part of your Christmas experience in 2008.

Festival of Church Choirs, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, January 11, 2009

Ten churches forming seven choirs will provide a benefit performance, supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters, at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 11, 2009. Come enjoy the wonderful music and blended voices of choirs from Antioch Missionary Baptist, Central Christian, Church of the Living God, First Baptist, First Christian, First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, New Salem Baptist, and St. Peter A.M.E. Churches.

Tickets are \$10 per person (\$8 for seniors, 65 and up) and are available at the Kirkland Box Office, 1184 West Main Street. The box office is open Monday-Tuesday; Thursday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.kirklandfinearts.com

Note of Thanks Received

Thank you, Central, for honoring me as a Deacon Emeritus. When Charles called, it came as a complete surprise to me. I have been a member of Central for over fifty years. I was baptized at Northwoods Christian Church in Indianapolis when I was eight years old. What a journey serving with Disciples members along the way! The love you have given our family made my service easy. God bless you all.

Carl & Phyllis Morris



Sunday, December 7, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-John Baird, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship

Monday (8)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall
6:30-Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (9)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:00-C.A.D.V. Meeting, Great Hall
5:15-175th Anniversary Task Force,
Disciple Room
6:00-Ladies Night Out, Junz Asian Grill

Wednesday (10)

9:00-Baby Talk, 240
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
12:00-Central Singers

Thursday (11)

10:00-Alanon, 212
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
7:00-Chancel Choir
7:15-Millikin-Decatur Symphony
Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday (13)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room
9:30-12:00-Children's Christmas Workshop, Great Hall & Kitchen

Counting On You

November 30

Worship Attendance 315
Sunday School Attendance 17

Serving Schedule—December 7, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Chris Fagin, Mike Holbrook

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Connie Bordner, Cindy Soebbing

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Larry Chapman, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Debbie Seaberg, Max Sperry

10:45 - Team 4 - Kevin Otis, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Louise Bolin, 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 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Brenda Tankersley, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston, Betty Scott, Dave Scott

10:45 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

Greeters:

8:15 - Clark & Mary Waldmier, David & Rosalie Poland

10:45 - Bob & Billie Harmon, Larry & Debbie Foster

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Gary & Penny Rutherford

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Barbara Beyer, Karen Baird, Donna Dash, Gerri & Mike Munos

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

December 10 Visitor Mailing Crew: Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

Dec. 8 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Dec. 9 9:00-12:30 - Florence Bolin
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Dec. 10 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Dec. 11 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Dec. 12 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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

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