



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, December 31, 2008

No. 53

## Serving Board Officers 2009

Congratulations to the following officers leading serving boards at the church in 2009.

### Board of Elders

**Bruce Campbell**, Chair  
**Cindy Soebbing**, Vice-Chair  
**Jo Carter**, Secretary

### Board of Deacons

**Gene Garver**, Chair  
**Chloe Hoaglin**, Vice-Chair for Preparation Teams  
**Kelly Swallow**, Vice-Chair for Serving Teams

### Board of Trustees

**Dale Ford**, Chair  
**Gene Garver**, Vice-Chair  
**Sally Thicksten**, Secretary  
**Larry Foster**, Assistant Secretary  
**Ron Oliver**, Treasurer  
**Steve Swarthout**, Assistant Treasurer



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

**A Fresh Start**

Text: John 1:1-18  
Charles Watkins

## Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2 for New Year's.

## Central's Spirit of Christmas Ministry Touches 100 People

This year Central's Spirit of Christmas Ministry of Giving adopted 100 children and adults for 2008. Your generous response touched the hearts of many and brought joy into the lives of families where joy is often difficult to find. More than \$1500 in donations allowed us to help a few additional persons in the later weeks of the pre-Christmas rush. In the near future, we hope to share the thank you notes we receive from the people we have touched this year. Thank you to all who participated in the Spirit of Christmas Ministry for 2008.

## Church Council Meetings

The Church Council in 2009 will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Disciple Room downstairs. All executive officers, serving board chairs, and department chairs are encouraged to attend the first meeting on January 21.

## Central's Choir Participates in the Festival of Church Choirs

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. Tickets are \$10 per person (\$8 for seniors, 65 and up) and are available at the Kirkland Box Office, 1184 West Main Street.

## Offering Envelopes on the Way to You

Central is mailing a booklet of offering envelopes to all regular contributors this week. Volunteers who operate the financial office at the church plead with you: 1) Please use the numbered envelopes—even if you use only one a month or one a quarter, it still saves volunteer time in the office to receive your gift in a numbered envelope, and 2) Please throw away all old envelopes from previous years—your number may change and an old envelope with the wrong number messes up the record-keeping. If you do not get a set of envelopes by January 3, please phone the church office so that we can send yours to you.

## Going to the Hospital?

If you are entering a local hospital, please notify the church office so that the minister or elder who is visiting each day may stop by to visit and pray with you. Frequently, a caller from the church may pass your room, because we don't know you are there. Procedures to protect your privacy make it hard for the church to find you if you don't let us know.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>  
Noon - 2:00 p.m.**

**Soup Lunch & Heifer Ranch  
Trip Informational  
Meeting for High School  
Youth**

**at First United Methodist  
Church (210 West North)**

**We will learn about our  
Summer Mission Trip to the  
Heifer Ranch.**

**2009 Christian Youth  
Fellowship (CYF)**

**Mid-Winter Retreat**

**January, 17<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m. -  
January 19<sup>th</sup> Noon**

**For High School Youth at  
First Christian Church  
Pontiac, IL  
Naked Faith!**

**Faith Unplugged: Youth  
and their relationships with  
God**

**Wii Faith: Faith/Youth  
and Relationships with Oth-  
ers**

**Hi-Jacked Faith: Youth/  
Self Worth-Self Esteem in a  
world with so many obstacles  
Pajama Party!! Youth Led  
Worship!! And More!!**

**Talk to Pastor Robert  
and Register on Sunday,  
January 4<sup>th</sup>!**

**\$10 per person**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!  
Sr. High Heifer Ranch  
Trip  
Perryville, AK  
June 13-21, 2009**

## Charles's Column

Throughout 2009, Central Christian Church will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The congregation began worship services led by Dr. Joseph Hostetler in the old log courthouse on Lincoln Square downtown in 1833, and the congregation was formally organized and established in 1834.

During each month of the new year, there will be a special 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary emphasis. The January emphasis is One Hundred Seventy-five Years in Mission. During January you are invited to participate in the *Mission Challenge 175*. We are looking for one hundred seventy-five ways in which a single individual can strengthen Central's mission of witness and service.

To participate in the Mission Challenge 175, please think of one thing you can personally do to strengthen our church in mission such as:

- Contribute 175 volunteer hours to the church or one of its mission partners (DOVE, Inc., BabyTALK, Oasis Day Center, Good Samaritan Inn, a local hospital etc.)
- Contribute \$175 to one or more of the six special day offerings for mission
- Contribute \$17.50 per week to the church budget or building fund
- Walk 175 miles (or 17.5 miles) for a sponsored mission cause
- Practice/rehearse for 175 hours for participation in one of Central's choirs

Your idea to strengthen our congregation's mission may be better than any of these. Dr. Rick Lowery challenged all of us at the regional assembly to contribute a tithe (one-tenth) of our monthly cell phone and internet bill to the Disciples mission hospital at Bolenge in Congo where five and a half million people have died in ethnic and political violence (almost as many people as died in the Nazi Holocaust.)

When you have decided what your own Mission 175 challenge will be, please write your idea on a card and place it in the box in the Friendship Center (no need to sign it; no one but you and God need to know). Through the month, Central will list the 175 ideas which may inspire others to accept your Mission Challenge 175.

If each of us (or at least 175 of us) participate in Mission Challenge 175, just imagine all the great ideas for strengthening our congregation's mission and continuing our one hundred seventy-five years of commitment to Christ's mission.

*Charles Watkins*



**Central Christian Church  
1834-2009**

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of **Frieda Faz**, who passed away on December 29.

## Unbind Your Heart – Lent 2009!

We are excited to bring a wonderful opportunity to Central members and friends during Lent 2009. We will be participating in a congregational emphasis on Prayer and Faith Sharing called “Unbinding Your Heart.” During the 40 days and six-weeks of Lent beginning on March 1, 2009, we will have a unique opportunity to pray, study and share together as we grow in spiritual awareness and faith. You’ll be hearing more about this in the coming weeks. Our planning team is praying for you and your participation in this unique opportunity. **John Graham** writes, “*I feel very close to the others in our group as we have discussed with each other the things we need prayers for. The guidelines and suggestions for prayer in our guide book are very helpful. I have had to learn to pray for myself and with this comes self examination. I look forward to personal and church wide spiritual growth through prayer as we begin Unbinding Your Heart.*” Look for more information in the coming weeks about Unbinding Your Heart!

## Note of Thanks Received

Thank you, Central Christian, for the wonderful outpouring of love and sympathy you gave the Stoddard family when their dear husband and father passed away. Charles was a strong arm of comfort and support; and the ladies who served the family luncheon after the service were so understanding. What a marvelous church family!

**Ruth Stoddard**

## Enlighten a Child, Become a Tutor for H2O

Central volunteer Tutors are on Winter Break and will return to Hope Academy on Epiphany, Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Epiphany celebrates God’s revelation in Jesus the Christ. H2O is one of the ways we reveal the nature and presence of God in our community. By volunteering to tutor elementary students, we enlighten children to worlds of possibility. Please, consider volunteering to help with H2O in 2009. We tutor students at the direction of classroom teachers from 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades. Some of our work is one on one and some tutoring is done in small groups. There are many children on the waiting list. H2O meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30–4:45 p.m. at Hope Academy (955 N. Illinois Street). Training will be provided for those who request it. If you are interested in joining our H2O volunteer team, or you have questions, please contact **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336 ext. 104 or [rbushey@cccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org)

## It’s Not Too Late!

The annual Christmas special day offering goes entirely to support the regional ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin. Our region has been recovering financially, but those who serve us there really need your financial support. We don’t remit this offering until the middle of January, so it is not too late for you to make a Christmas offering for our regional ministries. Your gift will be credited on your 2009 record of giving.



## Sunday, January 4, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Alexandria Otis,  
Soprano; Rachel West, 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, 240  
12:00-Youth Meeting at First United  
Methodist Church

## Monday (5)

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

## Tuesday (6)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors’ Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor’s Study  
12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room

## Wednesday (7)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:15-175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force  
Meeting, Disciple Room  
6:00-Unbinding Your Heart Planning  
Meeting, Friendship Center

## Thursday (8)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Saturday (10)

7:30-Elders’ Breakfast, Disciple Room

## Counting On You

### December 28

Worship Attendance ..... 222  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 55

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## Serving Schedule—January 4, 2009

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Keith Backes, Becky Johnston

### Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Mark Beal, Bruce Campbell

### Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Jo Carter, Megan Carter, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Christy Hanson, Dave Hanson, Sherri Hood, Brittney Munos, Larry Otis, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, Max Sperry

10:45 - Team 4 - Kevin Otis, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Sue Ann Cain, Claudia Curry, Debbie Foster, Larry Foster, Jon French, Melinda Hawbaker, Scott Hawbaker, Bob Linton, David Miller, Katie Miller, Alex Otis, Andrew Otis, Kevin Ann Otis, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing, Bruce Stoddard, Carol Stoddard, Donna Strong, Kevin Wilmot

### Ushers:

8:15 - Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal, Charlotte Lyon, Barbara Tyler

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

 Bud Bissey & Sally Force

### Greeters:

8:15 - Carol Charlton, Shirley Petri, Bob & Wanda Webb

10:45 - Clyde & Jean Booher, Dale & Judy Ford

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Austin Econie

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Keith Backes

### Preparation of Communion:

Carole & Francis Songer, Jan & Ron Dobbs, Darla Otis

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

### January 7 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

### Hosts:

Jan. 5 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Jan. 6 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

Jan. 7 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Jan. 8 9:00-12:30 - Sue Ann Cain

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Jan. 9 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

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

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

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PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

