



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, January 7, 2009

No. 1

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. this Sunday. 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 bought online www.kirklandfinearts.com

Millikin Chamber Chorale Homecoming Concert Sunday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.

Once again, Central is pleased to host the homecoming concert of this excellent choir which contributes to the strong tradition of musical excellence at Millikin University. The choir is an auditioned mixed choir of about 40 singers. They study, perform and record some of the "gems" of the standard choral repertoire.

Dr. Guy Forbes, their director, joined the Millikin staff in 1995 and has established himself as an effective conductor, educator and composer.

Come and bring your friends to top off a full day of musical activities.

Mission Challenge 175

Central is celebrating its 175th anniversary in mission and invites you to participate in Mission Challenge 175. Think of one thing that you as an individual can do to strengthen Central's mission of witness and service in Decatur or

across the globe. Accept your challenge personally, and then write it down on a card (no name is required) as a challenge to other Central members. Put your card in the box in the Friendship Center, and we will publicize each challenge, hoping to gather 175 mission challenges in January. The challenge you accept and pose to others is between God and yourself: no one else has to know. Let's challenge one another to strengthen Central's mission of witness and service in 175 ways during January of our 175th year!



Central Christian Church
1834-2009

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
The Baptism of the Lord

Text: Mark 1:4-11
Charles Watkins

Welcome New Member



Welcome to **Joan (Jenkins) Lewis**, who became a member of Central Christian by transfer of membership on Sunday, January 4th. **Joan & Joe Lewis** (who has been a member of Central for almost 54 years) were married at Central on December 27th.

Ladies Night Out – Tuesday, January 20th!

Celebrate the New Year (and Inauguration Day) by gathering with members and friends of Central for Ladies Night Out at Pastabilities Italian Grill on Tuesday, January 20th at 6 p.m. Great food, laughter, fellowship and door prizes are guaranteed! Come and experience the fun that we have when we gather together! Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center!

Central Youth

**Sunday, January 11th
Annual Epiphany Games
6-8 p.m.
Grades 6-12**

Come join in the mystery and fun of our annual night of discovery. And, yes, there will be food!

**Sunday, January 18th
Just for Junior High!!!
Bowling at
Spare Time Lanes
1:30-4 p.m.**

**For the High School
Youth!!!
4:30-6:00 p.m.
Meeting at the Church
Bring your Family Calendar**

**Area Youth Winter Event
Sunday, January 25th
1:30-6 p.m.
First Christian Church
Blue Mound, IL
Games, Food, Worship, Camp
Reunions, Camp and Summit
'09 information and more!**

**Sr. High
Heifer Ranch Trip
Perryville, AK
June 13-21, 2009**
High School Youth will travel to the Heifer International Livestock and Learning Center in Arkansas. We will stay in the Lodge, work on the ranch, spend a night in the Global Village and learn about solutions to hunger in the world. And, we will have fun! Registration forms are coming soon - watch for them and mark your calendar today!

Charles's Column

In last week's issue of The Central Visitor, I was a bit too cryptic as I talked about **Mission Challenge 175**. I mentioned the challenge by the **Reverend Dr. Richard Lowery**, Acting Dean at Lexington Theological Seminary, to the regional assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin last November. Just ahead of a brilliant Bible lecture on Saturday morning, he spoke about a visit he made last summer with his wife, the **Reverend Dr. Sharon Watkins**, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada to a Disciples mission hospital on Bolenge, Congo.

Disciples have been active in mission in Congo in Western Africa for more than a century. And today there are more Disciples of Christ members in Congo than there are in North America. But the genocide and tribal conflict devastating neighboring Rwanda has spilled over into Congo, and missions have died. Besides ethnic and political violence, there is a struggle over some valuable natural resources in the eastern parts of the Congo.

Could anyone imagine that cell phones are tainted with the blood of missions of deaths since 1998? Or that laptop computers and children's video games contribute to the devastation of natural resources in Congo? It is Coltan that is at stake - the minerals columbium or tantalite, or Coltan for short. Tantalite is a rare, hard, dense metal, very resistant to corrosion and high temperatures and an excellent conductor of heat and electricity. It is used in the microchips of cell phone and laptop computer batteries to prolong duration of the charge. One can retrieve these minerals by digging in the mud.

Even though Coltan is found in Brazil, Thailand, and Australia, its primary source is in Africa where 80% of the world reserves are found. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 10,000 miners toil daily in the province of Kivu, a territory that has been occupied since 1998 by the armies of Rwanda and Uganda. The United Nations affirms that this strategic mineral is funding a war that former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has called "the first African world war."

The warfare in Congo has devastated the country and killed five and one half million people, rivaling the Nazi Holocaust in Europe half a century ago. Our inexpensive cell phones and laptop computers are fueling this genocide.

So Dr. Lowery said, following his visit to our devastated Disciples hospital at Bolenge now being rebuilt, that the least we Americans can do is to tithe our cell phone and internet bills to that hospital. Jane and I have accepted Dr. Lowery's challenge, and throughout Central's 175th anniversary year, we will remit to the Church Finance Council one-tenth of our monthly cell phone and internet bills for the benefit of the Disciples hospital in Congo.

What Mission 175 challenge will you devise and accept and pass on inviting others to join you to strengthen the mission of Central Christian Church in its 175th year? Think it up, accept it, and challenge others to join you this month as we celebrate Central's 175 years in mission!

Charles Watkins

The Subs are Coming!
Super Bowl Sunday, February 1st!
Watch for order forms!

Unbinding Your Heart – Signup Sunday is January 18th!

You've been hearing about the experience that many in our congregation have had with the Unbinding Your Heart Study: 40 Days of Prayer and Faith-Sharing! Now is your chance to experience the joy of this study! Sign-ups for the Lenten Studies begin Sunday, January 18th! The 6-week sharing and prayer groups will begin March 1st and will be offered at various times throughout the week, including Sunday Mornings (during the Sunday School hour). Sign up and begin planning now for this important and transforming experience in your life!

Enlighten a Child, Become a Tutor for H2O

Central volunteer Tutors returned to Hope Academy this week. H2O is one of the ways we reveal the nature and presence of God in our community. H2O is one of the ways you may serve the church as we commemorate the 175th anniversary of our congregation. By volunteering to tutor elementary students, we enlighten children to worlds of possibility, including the possibility that they are worth your time and your patience. Please, consider volunteering to help with H2O in 2009. We have new curriculum and are looking forward to making a difference in the lives of our students. Some of our work is one on one and some tutoring is done in small groups. The number of volunteers determines the number of students who get this much needed support. 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

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, January 14th!

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, January 14th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu includes Beef Stroganoff, Buttered Noodles, Sweet & Sour 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 **Warren Berner** will help us celebrate "National Belly Laugh Day"! You won't want to miss this! 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 left over than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, January 12th, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!



Sunday, January 11, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Men's Ensemble
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
4:00-Choir Festival, Kirkland
6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church
6:00-8:00-Youth Epiphany Games, Great Hall
7:30-Millikin Chamber Chorale, Sanctuary

Monday (12)

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

Tuesday (13)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School

Wednesday (14)

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

Thursday (15)

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

Saturday (17)

9:00-12:00-Pastors' Class

Counting On You

January 4

Worship Attendance 311
Sunday School Attendance 69

Serving Schedule—January 11, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mark Beal, Janet Lyman

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Kevin Otis	Connie Bordner
Ed Acheson	Becky Johnston
Lucy Acheson	Dick Cain
Jeannie Backes	Jo Carter
Louise Boline	John Graham
Mary Boyle	Kevin Miller
Shirley Brooks	Cindy Soebbing
Claudia Curry	Felicity Williams
Jon French	Jody Featherstun
Bob Linton	

Alternate: Julie Martin

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, 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, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Brett Swallow, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Lawrence Thicksten, Kathy Thornton, Kent West, Lea West

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 - Harold & Bess King, Ann Harshman, Mary Kincaid

10:45 - Larry & Betty Chapman, Steve & Carrie Funk

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: John & Carol Graham

Acolytes:

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

January 14 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

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

Jan. 13 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Jan. 14 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Jan. 15 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Jan. 16 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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 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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