



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, January 28, 2009

No. 4

Mission Challenge 175

Have you challenged yourself as an individual to find one way to strengthen the mission of our church during this 175th anniversary year? Have you written down your idea to challenge other members of Central? The box to receive your challenge is on display in the Friendship Center and we're ready to hear from you. No signature is needed: just your idea. Celebrate Central's 175 years in mission by adding your own cleverness and commitment.



Central Christian Church
1834-2009

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

The Prophet Who Wanted to Fail

Text: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Charles Watkins

Capital Campaign Authorized

The Church Council voted at its January meeting to authorize a capital campaign in our congregation in March. Proposed projects include restoration of the Kirkland Bell Tower, maintenance of stained glass windows in the sanctuary, the chapel, and the west entrance, updated lighting controls in the sanctuary, upgrading of mechanical systems in the Nichols Wing (now twenty years old), renovation of the basement restrooms, with 10% of funds raised to go to capital needs of mission partners. Commitments of the current 2006-2009 campaign mature at the end of March this year, and the new campaign will cover building fund needs for 2009-2012.

Sign-Ups Continue for Unbinding Your Heart!

We've had a great response so far for **Unbinding Your Heart**, our six-week Lenten small group study and emphasis on prayer and faith-sharing. Our goal is to have at least 200 members & friends participating. Groups will meet primarily on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will also offer groups on weekdays and evenings, as needed. This news was received this week from Pastor Martha Jean Fitch of First Christian Church in Galesburg, one of our sister churches participating in this Lenten emphasis: *"Currently, including all the children, we have 80% of our average worship attendance registered! Everyone is thrilled. We have several of our visitors who have signed up who are, for the most part, unchurched! Most have not been baptized. One 15-year-old youth has been moved to start inviting his friends to church. Right now, he has 2 unchurched friends coming regularly and their unchurched mother. One woman in our church has been working on an unchurched co-worker, inviting her to come to church. She didn't take her up on the offer until she told her about Unbinding Your Heart. The woman said, 'Sign me up!' What is amazing to me is how we are surrounded by unchurched folk. And I have discovered that I haven't really had to explain our faith very much to adults who have never had any faith exposure before. It is wonderful to see God at work."* God bless, Pastor MJ Fitch

Have you signed up yet? Have you signed up your children for the Sunday School programming that will run during the six-week emphasis? Have you invited friends, family members and neighbors to attend with you? Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center!

Concert Opportunities

Greater Decatur Chorale has invited our **Chancel Choir** to perform at their concerts **Saturday, January 31 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m.** Chancel Choir will sing four pieces and join the Chorale for a fifth. Concerts are at the Civic Center and tickets are available at the Park District or at the door.

One Voice, a vocal jazz ensemble from Millikin University will be in our Sanctuary on **Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 p.m.** They will present the concert they have prepared for the prestigious American Choral Directors Convention in Oklahoma City. They are under the direction of **Steve Widenhofer**, head of the music department at Millikin and a former organist at Central.

March 29 at 4:00 p.m., Central will host a piano recital given by **Douglas Ashcraft**. Mr. Ashcraft is a piano instructor at Idyllwild Art Academy in Idyllwild, California. He began his formal training as a student of **Aldo Mancinelli**.



Central Youth

Super Sub Shop Saturday, January 31st 10 a.m. - Noon

Youth will assemble our famous subs for pick up on Sunday! We will make a few extras to sell on a first come first serve basis just in case you didn't get your order turned in on time!

Sunday, February 1st Believe in Now Super Bowl XLIII Bash 5-8:30 p.m.

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to Pastor Robert's home for our annual Super Bowl Bash. Join us for food, games, fun and devotions. Wear your favorite sports attire!

Sunday, February 8th Parents & Youth Planning Meeting Noon-1:30 p.m.

We will discuss our Mission Trip in June, our involvement in Unbinding Your Heart, our Mission 175 Challenge, and our presence at the General Assembly in July. Bring your family calendars. Lunch will be served.

Tuesday, February 10th Youth Family Night Out Dinner at 6 p.m. at Pizza Hut on West Eldorado Pizza/Pasta Buffet & Salad Bar with Drink \$11 7:30 p.m. Concert *Sweet Honey in the Rock* Kirkland Fine Arts Center Tickets \$12

Children's Worship Leaders Needed

We are currently in need of volunteers for our Children's Worship program which meets during our 10:45 a.m. worship service. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please see **Pastor Robert**.

Charles's Column

In 1834 a coalition of groups opposed to President Andrew Jackson coalesced as a political party and adopted the name Whig after the English political party that opposed royal prerogatives. Party leaders were Henry Clay of Kentucky, John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, and Daniel Webster of Massachusetts. In the election that year the Democrats took a 27-25 Senate majority over the Whigs, and even though they lost two seats in the House, they still held a 145-98 majority over the Whigs.

The hit song on the New York stage soon became known as *Turkey in the Straw*, gaining popularity in minstrel shows. Also growing in popularity was phrenology which held that one could determine character traits and mental abilities from the shape of the human skull. That year's best-selling book was Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

A true prototype of the modern electric motor was constructed by Thomas Davenport, a Vermont blacksmith. He received a patent for his invention three years later in 1837, but his basic design of the standard electric motor of today didn't get much attention before his death in 1851. Cyrus McCormick patented in 1834 publication of his supposed autobiography *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett*, featuring the hero as a great bear hunter and congressman.

About this time Americans began to eat tomatoes, but they would not become popular until 1900. Even though tomatoes had been introduced into Europe from Mexico as ornamental plants in the sixteenth century and were soon eaten in Italy, Americans popularly regarded them as poisonous.

It was the year that Revolutionary War hero and advisor to George Washington the Marquis de Lafayette died and the year that Abraham Lincoln (at age 25) entered politics as assemblyman in the Illinois legislature.

And it was the year that a group of twelve Disciples, who had been meeting for a year in the log courthouse at Main and Main Streets under the leadership of pioneer preacher Dr. Joseph Hostetler, decided to organize themselves into the Christian Church of Macon County. It was the year that our congregation was organized. The following year Dr. Hostetler donated two acres of "hazel brush patch" on the outskirts of Decatur at the corner of Wood and Water streets (where the Orlando Hotel now stands). Our first log church built on that land was twenty feet square and would fit easily on the chancel of our present sanctuary.

As we celebrate our 175th anniversary as a congregation this year, we pay tribute to the courage and generosity of those who have sustained our church all these years.

Charles Watkins

Ladies Night Out Rescheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd!

Ladies Night Out has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd. You may sign up in the Friendship Center and plan to gather with members and friends of Central for Ladies Night Out at Pastabilities Italian Grill on Tuesday, February 3rd at 6 p.m. Great food, laughter, fellowship and door prizes are guaranteed! Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center!

Note of Thanks Received

Thank you, Central Christian Church. The walker helped a lot!
God be with you!
Mary Alice Rule

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Marjorie Fitch** and family following the January 19th death of her son, *Vern Fitch* of Mahomet.

Youth Family Night Out – February 10th

Youth grades 3-12 and their families are invited to a Youth Family Night Out at Kirkland Fine Arts Center on February 10th for the 7:30 p.m. performance of *Sweet Honey in the Rock*. From their MySpace page: Rooted in a deeply held commitment to create music out of the rich textures of African American legacy and traditions, *Sweet Honey In The Rock* possesses a stunning vocal prowess that captures the complex sounds of Blues, spirituals, traditional gospel hymns, rap, reggae, African chants, Hip Hop, ancient lullabies, and jazz improvisation. Sweet Honey's collective voice, occasionally accompanied by hand percussion instruments, produces a sound filled with soulful harmonies and intricate rhythms (www.myspace.com/sweethoneyintherock1973).

Twenty seats have been reserved in the seventh and eighth rows for CCC. Tickets for youth are \$12 and \$18 for adults. For those who wish to join us for dinner, we will meet at 6 p.m. at Pizza Hut on West Eldorado Street. Individuals or families may order off the menu or the pizza/pasta buffet & salad bar. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday!

Coming Soon to Just Flicks: February 8th at 5 p.m.

Based on a true story, an American court, in 1948 occupied Germany, tries four Nazi judges for war crimes. *Judgment at Nuremberg* focuses on two individuals, the judge (Spencer Tracy) and one defendant (Burt Lancaster), a well respected German scholar. The defendant must come to grips with the reality of his actions or inaction. This 1961 film was nominated for 11 Academy Awards. The movie will begin at 5 p.m. in the Great Hall. Refreshments will be available and discussion will follow.

Tuesday Tutors Needed for H2O

Volunteer tutors are urgently needed for Tuesday afternoons at Hope Academy. 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

Gifts of Love

Did you know that underwear is a luxury for many folks? A child can go to school without underwear on, but not without a shirt or pants or shoes, and underwear are expensive. During the month of February, the Christian Action & Community Service Department is sponsoring an underwear drive for the Dove Clothing Room for Children located at Prairie Avenue Christian Church. New children's underwear of all sizes are needed. We will collect new children's underwear each Sunday during February.



Sunday, February 1, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Katie Powers,
Soprano; Marilyn Mertz, 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
5:00-Youth Super Bowl Party, Robert
& Teri Bushey's house

Monday (2)

6:30-CACS Dept., Room 280
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room &
Great Hall

Tuesday (3)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
6:00-Ladies Night Out, Pastabilities
7:00-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

Wednesday (4)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Central Singers
5:15-175th Anniversary Task Force,
Disciple Room
6:00-Gospel Jazz Group Planning,
Choir Room
6:30-Unbinding Your Heart Prayer
Team, Disciple Room

Thursday (5)

10:00-Alanon, 212
10:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room
5:30-Unbinding Your Heart Planning,
Friendship Center
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Counting On You

January 25

Worship Attendance 192
Sunday School Attendance 42

Serving Schedule—February 1, 2009

Elders:

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

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Mark Beal & Becky Johnston

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Jo Carter, Megan Carter, Jane Davis, Andy Fulker, Theresa Fulker, 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 Bolin, 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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos, Willie Birkhead

10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Capt., Marilyn Blank, Lucy Acheson, Dick Cain, Sue Ann Cain, Rosie Doore

Greeters:

8:15 - Dennis & Debbie Downey, Donna Dash, Barbara Beyer

10:45 - Pam & Shelby Larrick, Keith & Jeannie Backes

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Andrew Otis

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 - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

February 4 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

Feb. 2 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Feb. 3 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Feb. 4 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Feb. 5 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Feb. 6 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

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Central Christian Church
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