



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, February 18, 2009

No. 7

Concert Opportunities

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.

One Voice is 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 by **Douglas Ashcraft**. Mr. Ashcraft is a piano instructor at Idyllwild Art Academy in California. He began his formal training as a student of Aldo Mancinelli.

Week of Compassion

“Where Your Treasure is, There will Your Heart Be Also”

The Week of Compassion Special offering continues this Sunday. To date we have received \$1,128 of our \$3862 goal. Please prayerfully consider your donation to our church’s year-round disaster response ministry and place your check in the offering plate this Sunday. We will continue to accept school and health kit supplies and donations to purchase those supplies through Easter. Our goal is to assemble 100 School Kits and 100 Health Kits for distribution around the world. Supplies needed include: children’s scissors, 70-count spiral bound notebooks, rulers, pencil sharpeners, pink erasers, pencils, 24-count crayons, hand towel and washcloth, wide-tooth comb, nail clippers, bars of soap, toothbrush and band-aids. Complete lists and more information are available at the Week of Compassion display in the Friendship Center. (The dollar stores are an excellent place to purchase the needed items.) If making a donation for the purchase of supplies, please mark “school/health kits” in your check memo line. We appreciate your generosity and ask that you keep Week of Compassion and the suffering millions around the world in your prayers.

Disciples Women’s Regional Gathering – Taste & See

You are invited to the Regional Spring Women’s event, Taste & See, on April 25, 2009. During the day, we will be looking at some great new ideas and formats for sharing the good news with all women. Special guest speaker will be **Verity Jones**, editor and publisher of *Disciples World Magazine* and a lively new magazine for women – *Just Women*. It will be an exciting and inspiring day as we gather, share, and learn together on the Illinois State University Campus in Normal. The \$29 registration fee (before April 10th) includes a copy of the Premier Issue of *Just Women*, a CD filled with resources for Disciple Women, lots of great ideas for sharing and networking, lunch and snacks. Registration forms are available in the Friendship Center. Let **Pastor Gretchen** know if you plan to attend and we can organize drivers/riders for the event!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**From Mountaintop
to Valley Below**

Text: Mark 9:2-9

Gretchen Barron

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday, February 25th, begins the holy season of Lent with its forty days (plus Sundays) of preparation for Easter. An opportunity to begin the Lenten season with an individual time of prayer and ashes will be offered in the sanctuary from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Devotional material will be available as you enter the sanctuary and you may stay as long as you like for silent meditation and

prayer. As you are ready and if you choose, you may come to the front of the sanctuary to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on your forehead.



Ash Wednesday

Sign the Column

A column in the Friendship Center has been prepared to receive your signature, along with the signature of at least 175 other members, friends, visitors, children and youth in celebration of our 175th anniversary this year. Sign your name and celebrate!



Central Youth

Sunday, February 22nd
Heifer Ranch Trip
Meeting
12:30-2 p.m.

Sunday, March 1st
4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Millikin University
One Voice Concert

Come hear this delight-fully talented group performing in our sanctuary. Youth from Blue Mound will be joining us and we will share supper together after the concert.

Sunday, March 8th
4:30-6 p.m.

Central Youth will meet in the Great Hall. We will begin designs for our new recycling center.

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!

Meet the Capital Campaign Council Members

Next month, our congregation will engage in a capital campaign under the theme *Building on 175 Years of Serving*. The goal is to raise \$500,000 for building fund needs for the three-year period April 1, 2009-March 31, 2012. Members of the campaign council are:

John Graham
Campaign Chair

Lois Whitaker
Spiritual Emphasis Chair

Carole Holbrook
Campaign Secretary

Shirley Brooks
Publicity Chair

Mary Jane Oliver
Congregation President

Shirley Swarthout
Brett Swallow
Fellowship Chairs

Robert Hoaglin
Congregation Treasurer

Mike Holbrook
Advance Pledge Chair

Team Leaders

Keith Backes
Larry Chapman
Al Fagin
Mike Munos
Ron Oliver
Larry Otis
Lawrence Thicksten

Lasagna Dinner for Good Samaritan Inn

The Good Samaritan Inn will host a "drive-by" Lasagna Dinner on Sunday, February 22nd from 11 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available in the church office and in the Friendship Center this Sunday for \$7.50 or four for \$25. Dinners may be picked up at 543 N. Water Street. Good Samaritan Inn serves our community by providing hot meals seven days per week for the under-resourced of our community.

Children's Underwear Collection for Dove

One tub of New Children's Underwear was delivered to the Dove Clothing Room last week and we would like to fill it again. Our collection will continue through this Sunday. New children's underwear of all sizes is needed. Help us fill another tub to give to our community's under-resourced children.

Volunteers for ISAT Proctoring Needed

Hope Academy administrators and teachers are requesting volunteers to help out during the Illinois Standardized Achievement Test days at the school. The ISAT tests allow accommodations for students with special needs to be aided by a trained proctor. We hope to send several volunteer proctors during ISAT week, March 2nd-4th. A brief training will be provided by the school principal prior to the tests (date and time to be determined). If you have some free time between 9:30 a.m. and Noon, contact **Pastor Robert** or **Jan Dobbs**.

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Matthew Swarthout & Diana Bauer** following the February 8th birth of their daughter **Peyton Linley**. Grandparents are **Steve & Shirley Swarthout**.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **David Flanders** and **John & Becky Flanders** and family following the February 12th death of their mother, **Barbara Flanders**.....and to **Darla & Larry Otis** and family following the death of Darla's sister, **Patricia Haynes** on February 15th.

Unbinding Your Heart – Final Opportunity to Sign up this Sunday

We invite you to join with more than 100 Central members and friends who will be sharing in 40 days of prayer and faith-sharing as they participate in the "Unbinding Your Heart" experience during Lent, beginning March 1st! Groups will meet on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour and throughout the week as needed. During each group session, we will discuss the daily prayer activities and weekly reading assignments that group members engaged in during the week and will spend time praying for ourselves and others and for our church. **Liz Campbell** has this to say about her experience so far with **Unbinding Your Heart**: *"As we continue to pray for our church and each other daily, amazing things are happening. Many prayers are being answered and we are becoming much closer as a group through the sharing of our heartfelt needs and concerns. We have formed bonds which will never be broken."* Sign up for **Unbinding Your Heart** this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

FunTimer's Are On Their Way to the Sullivan Little Theater

FunTimers (those 55+) are invited to join together for a trip to the Sullivan Little Theater on Friday, March 13th for a fun and hilarious afternoon of slapstick, jokes, skits and laughter as Tom Mullica returns to the Little Theater as Red Skelton. Remember the television variety show that kept America laughing for more than twenty years with classic characters like Freddie, the Freeloader; Clem Kadiddlehopper; Junior the Mean Widdle Kid and more. You will laugh so hard your sides will ache! Tickets are \$26 each and paid reservations must be made by Sunday, March 1st. Sign up in the Friendship Center or speak with **Pastor Gretchen**. The bus will leave Central at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13th and return to town before 5 p.m.

Notes of Thanks Received

Thank you to the ministers and to all who came by to visit or sent cards while I was in the hospital. I am home now and recovering well.

God Bless You,
Joe Lewis

Dear Keystone Class,

Thank you, so much, for remembering me; I really enjoyed it. I do miss the class.

Mary Barnes



Sunday, February 22, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Jason Zimmerman,
Cello; Janice Mitchell, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Dan Stuby, Baritone;
Jason Zimmerman, Cello; Janice
Mitchell; Piano; Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship
12:30-Youth Heifer Ranch Trip
Planning Meeting

Monday (23)

6:30-MCCOCP, Disciple Room

Tuesday (24)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:00-Evangelism, Friendship Center
6:30-Unbinding Your Heart Task Force,
Friendship Center
7:00-Dorcas, Disciple Room

Wednesday (25)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-6:00-*Ash Wednesday Meditation*,
Sanctuary
6:30-Unbinding Your Heart Prayer
Team, Disciple Room

Thursday (26)

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

Counting On You

February 15

Worship Attendance 266
Sunday School Attendance 53

Serving Schedule—February 22, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Felicity Williams, Claudia Quigg

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Felicity Williams

Decatur Memorial: Jo Carter

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 Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Kathy Thornton, Kent West, Lea West

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski

10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Capt., Pam Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:15 - Don & Brenda Tankersley, Dean & Janet Gray

10:45 - Ed & Lucy Acheson, Warren & Azalee Berner

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Harold & Bess King

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Suzie Miller, Jim & Myra Hinze, Mark & Nancy McAfee

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

February 25 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Feb. 23 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

Feb. 24 9:00-12:30 - Dee Hill

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

Feb. 25 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Feb. 26 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Feb. 27 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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 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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