



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, February 25, 2009

No. 8

Concert Opportunities

One Voice, a vocal jazz ensemble from Millikin University will be in our Sanctuary this **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.

Suggested Resources for Black History Month

Our Regional Minister, **Beth Dobyms**, suggested the following as good resources to be read during Black History Month. You may check out these fine books. You will be enriched as you get acquainted with the fine authors who share their experiences, imaginations, and perceptions with you. See the Friendship Center Display this Sunday provided for us by our Church Librarian, **Julie Martin**.

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- *Every Tongue Got to Confess*, Zora Neale Hurston
- *Lincoln on Race and Slavery*, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., editor
- *A Mercy*, Toni Morrison
- *The Known World*, Edward P. Jones
- *Rosa*, Nikki Giovanni
- *Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat*, Nikki Giovanni

Disciples Women's Regional Gathering – Taste & See

You are invited to the Regional Spring Women's event, Taste & See, on April 25, 2009. 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 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 in the Friendship Center. Let **Pastor Gretchen** know if you plan to attend and we can organize drivers/riders for the event!

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Salvation Beyond the Storm

Text: Genesis 9:8-17

Charles Watkins

Unbinding Your Heart Update

Approximately 110 Central members and friends will gather together in small groups throughout the six weeks of Lent for prayer and faith-sharing. Participants will also covenant to a daily time of prayer and reflection. Groups are meeting on Sunday morning, Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening. If you've not yet signed up for this special opportunity, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.

Kroger Cares Cards Progress

The Christian Action and Community Service Department reports that we have raised over \$1000 which will be used to fund the five weekend meals that we are scheduled to provide at the Good Samaritan Inn in 2009. Cards are available in the church office and sell for \$10. The card may be reloaded or added to at any Kroger store.

Return Week of Compassion Treasure Chests This Sunday

If you or your children have been collecting coins in the Week of Compassion treasure chests throughout the month of February, please return them to the church this coming Sunday. Children may give them to their Sunday School teachers or they may be returned to **Pastor Gretchen**.

Central Youth

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

Come hear this delightfully 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.

Time to Start Thinking Camp!

Shalom - High School
June 8-13th

Before May 4th \$125

Koinonia - Jr. & Middle School
June 22-27

Before May 18th \$125

8th Grade Conference - Finished 8th Grade
June 14-20

Before May 12th \$125

ADDaM Camp - High School
- June 21-28

Before May 18th \$125

More info at
www.cciwdisciples.org

Sr. High Heifer Ranch Trip
Perryville, AK
June 13-20, 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

The Lenten season which began yesterday is about getting more light into your life. The name for this season in the church year comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, referring to the lengthening of the days at this time of year in the northern hemisphere. A free translation of the word Lent is simply "spring." The days are growing longer; there are a few more minutes of light each day.

So how do you get more light into your soul even as you are getting more light in your day? One ancient answer to that question is fasting. Denying yourself food during daylight hours or denying yourself one particular type of food, such as meat, during the forty days of Lent can sharpen spiritual awareness. Every time your body tells you you're hungry, every time you want what you are denying yourself, you are reminded of why you are hungry, and you think about the spiritual discipline that has brought this hunger to you. You think about your soul, your eternal destiny, your purpose in life, and God's purpose for you. Fasting is like tying a string around your finger to remind you of something you don't want to forget. If you offered a prayer to God each time you felt a hunger pang, you'd see the point.

Fasting is mostly out of fashion as soon as New Year's resolutions fade away. But there are people even today who fast and who testify to the light that it brings, the insight, the clarity of purpose, the brightness of God's love and grace.

Another way to get more light into your soul is by repentance. Just as a "shadow" on an X-ray can be an ominous sign, the selfish, thoughtless, unkind things we do and think cast shadows on our souls and are dangerous to our spiritual health. Repentance is that turning toward God, turning toward the light, in which we let the Holy Spirit melt away those dark things in ourselves that threaten us. Lent is the perfect time to go to a friend and ask forgiveness. It's an even better time to go to an enemy and ask forgiveness. It's an attempt to get right with God by getting right with everybody around us, especially those who are holding something against us.

Another excellent resource to fill Lent with meaning is prayer: concentrated, intense, heart-felt prayer. This is not the casual prayer on the run or the urgent prayer in an emergency. No, this is a time of "practicing the presence of God," a time of silence and listening, a time of putting yourself at God's disposal. You needn't have something to pray for or about, thought certainly there are an abundance of needs in the world that cry out to God. As a Lenten discipline prayer is scheduled, dedicated time with God.

Certainly there are other ways to get more light into your life through loving action and dedicated service. That's how spring comes to the soul. Make these forty days plus six Sundays a time when you lift the blinds and throw open the windows of your heart to the warm and radiant love of God which is the light of the world.

Charles Watkins

Matinee to Benefit Dove's Domestic Violence Program

A special matinee performance of *The Spitfire Grill* will be held at the Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre (corner of West Wood St. & Oakland Ave.) on **Saturday, March 7th at 2 p.m.** All funds from this matinee will benefit the women and children served by Dove's Domestic Violence Program. Tickets are \$13 or 2 for \$25 and may be purchased at the Dove Office. For more information contact Dove at 428-6616.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Wyllene Griffy** and family following the February 17th death of her mother, *Hazel Amason.....*and to **Joy & Ed Adams** following the death of Joy's brother-in-law, *Ronald Sidwell* of Brownstown, IL

Week of Compassion Update

To date, Central members and friends have donated \$3124 for Week of Compassion in February. We are just \$738 short of our goal of \$3862. Donations are still welcome and should be marked with "WOC" in the notation line of your check. In the first 2 months of 2009, Week of Compassion has already responded to immediate disaster and long-term recovery needs in more than 50 countries worldwide and in 17 of the United States including Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri and Ohio. For more information on Week of Compassion, click on the link on our website at www.cccdisciples.org. Week of Compassion – around the world, around the year!

Donations Needed for School and Health Kits

The World Outreach Department will continue to collect donations of needed items for School and Health Kits through Easter Sunday. The kits will be assembled at Central and distributed through Week of Compassion and Church World Service throughout the world where there are needs. Our goal is to assemble 100 Health Kits and 100 School Kits. 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. If you would rather make a donation and let someone else do the shopping for you, please mark "school/health kits" in your check memo line. Donated supplies may be dropped into the basket in the Friendship Center.

Note of Thanks Received

Thank you to all who sent cards and offered other expressions of sympathy after the death of my sister, Patricia Haynes.

Darla Otis

A Conversation on Race in Decatur

A panel discussion on economic disparities and race relations in Decatur is scheduled for **Thursday, March 5th at 6 p.m.** at Kirkland Fine Arts Center on the campus of Millikin University. The event will be moderated by **Jeff Johnson**, investigative journalist, political correspondent for BET, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and Newsweek. Two panels will discuss the economics of race and the social effects of race. The event is free and is sponsored by Richland Community College, Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce, NAACP, Decatur Public Schools District #61 and Millikin University. For more info contact the Center for Multicultural Student Affairs at 362-6411.

Hope Academy Tutors on Break

Hope Academy tutors will not meet with students after school March 1-27 due to ISAT exams and an Intercession Break. Tutoring will resume on Tuesday, March 31st at 3:30 p.m.



Sunday, March 1, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Jan Baird,
Soprano; John Baird, Piano
10:45 Offertory-Children; John Baird,
Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Mairlyn
Ward, Piano
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School, Unbinding Groups
4:00-One Voice Millikin Choir Concert,
Sanctuary
5:30-Youth Meeting

Monday (2)

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
5:30-Capital Campaign Council,
Disciple Room
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

Wednesday (4)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Central Singers
1:15-Unbinding Group, Disciple Room
5:15-175th Anniversary Task Force,
Disciple Room
6:00-Unbinding Groups, Friendship
Center, Choir Room, Great Hall
6:30-Preschool Board, 280

Thursday (5)

10:00-Alanon, 212
10:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (7)

5:00-7:00-Breakfast Optimists Chili
Supper, Great Hall

Counting On You

February 22

Worship Attendance 262
Sunday School Attendance 50

Serving Schedule—March 1, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Kevin Miller, Lois Whitaker

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Connie Bordner, Robert Garrett

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 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Gordon Gregory, Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 9 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Kevin Miller, Kim Miller, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, York Powers

Greeters:

8:15 - Clark & Mary Waldmier, Greg & Jo Carter

10:45 - Carroll & Doris Little, Bob & Carol Bischoff

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Scott & Melinda Hawbaker Family

Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Rachel Ash

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

March 4 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

Mar. 2 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Mar. 3 9:00-12:30 - Darla Lienemann

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

Mar. 4 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Mar. 5 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

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

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

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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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