



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, March 4, 2009

No. 9



Spring Forward Saturday Night!

This Sunday at 2:00 a.m., Illinois moves an hour forward for Daylight Saving Time. If you forget to set your clock ahead, you may still get to church in time for communion!

Campaign Begins

This Sunday Capital Campaign Chair **John Graham** announces the beginning of the new three-year building fund campaign under the theme **Building on 175 Years of Serving**. Earlier the Advance Pledge Team received the names of prospects each team member will contact, and the Campaign Team Leaders will soon recruit callers to contact the congregation about the campaign. The campaign will climax on **Sunday, March 22** as the congregation gathers at the regular worship services and for an all church dinner following second service in the Great Hall.

This week watch your mail for the first letter from the campaign along with a brochure outlining the goals of the campaign. Be thinking about what part you will play in this important building fund effort, and be sure to say "yes" when you are called to help by a campaign volunteer.



Central Christian Church
1834-2009

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, March 11th!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal, program and fellowship on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, March 11th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Meat Loaf, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, Rolls and Dessert. The meal is just \$4 per person (the best deal in town). Following lunch, our own **Barb Tyler** will help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day as she shares pictures and stories of her recent trip to Ireland! We'll also be celebrating and honoring **Louise Boline** and **Rosie Doore**, who will retire as our Elderberries cooks this month. You won't want to miss this! To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this Sunday. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, March 9th so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Measuring Gain & Loss

Text: Mark 8:31-38
Charles Watkins

Upcoming Concert

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**.

Lenten Daily Devotionals

The annual Fellowship of Prayer daily devotionals for Lent, which were distributed at the Ash Wednesday service, are available for you in the narthex. The booklet contains scripture, devotional thoughts, and a prayer for each day from now until Easter.

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 Sunday. They may give them to their Sunday School teachers or return them to **Pastor Gretchen**.

Now Showing at Just Flicks, *Sicko* – March 8th

In this documentary, the director and writer Michael Moore exposes the dysfunctional North American health care system, oriented to huge profits and not to its mission of saving lives. *Sicko* portrays the corruption in the political system and the situation of average American citizens. Join us for this thought provoking documentary with discussion following, Sunday, March 8th at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

Central Youth

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

Central Youth will meet in the Great Hall. We will begin designs for our new cardboard recycling center and we will continue our discussion about the state of our schools.

**Sunday, March 15th
4:30-6 p.m.**

Central Youth will meet to finish our work on the new Cardboard Recycling Center. Bring \$4 for Pizza!

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 in the mail this week - watch for them and mark your calendar today!

Charles's Column

Does the spiritual and penitential season of Lent seem an odd time to launch a major building fund campaign in your church? Well if this is a season in which to express devotion to Jesus, to imitate in a small way his sacrificial love, then what better time could there be to make a commitment for keeping God's house strong to house Jesus's mission of witness and service in this place?

Elements of this campaign include restoration of the Kirkland Bell Tower, restoration of the stained glass windows in the west entry, the sanctuary, and Flewelling Chapel, renovation of some obsolete restroom facilities in the lower level, replacement of obsolete lighting controls in the sanctuary, replacement (as needed) of mechanical systems in the twenty-year-old Nichols Education Wing, and support for capital needs of some of our mission partners.

The current three-year campaign which ends this month has been extremely successful. All but one of the projects planned for this campaign have been completed, all the bills have been paid, and the congregation has no building debt, no mortgage on our campus. We have such a strong position from which to launch our next building fund effort.

If you are one of the two hundred who has supported the current 2006-2009 effort, please consider making a new commitment on March 22 for the next three years of meeting building needs. If you did not participate in the building fund this time, please consider joining your strength to the current effort for 2009-2012. If you like to participate in success and effectiveness, this is a worthy cause needing your support.

This new campaign is not just a financial exercise; it is a spiritual enterprise. As the spirit of devotion to Jesus Christ motivates a spirit of generosity, this campaign gives yet another opportunity to express your faith and commitment to keep Christ's church strong. Dozens of volunteers will be working this month to enlist your support. Join the volunteers and support this campaign with your prayer and your own three-year commitment. And may God bless you for doing your best for your church.

Charles Watkins

Week of Compassion Goal Met!

To date, Central members and friends have donated \$4062.12 for Week of Compassion. This exceeds our goal of \$3862! Congratulations, Central and thank you for your generosity! Week of Compassion is the arm of our church that works throughout the year to meet emergency and long-term needs in times of disaster and for on-going projects in developing nations. Because of this, donations to Week of Compassion are always welcome. Unlike many relief organizations who use a portion of their received funds for administrative costs, 100% of the donations to Week of Compassion are passed along to those in need.

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 and cash for School and Health Kits through Easter Sunday. Please mark *School/Health Kits* in the memo line on your check.

Unbinding Your Heart Update

Approximately 120 Central members and friends are now involved in an on-going study and emphasis throughout Lent focusing on Prayer and Faith Sharing. Groups are meeting on Sunday morning, Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening. It's not too late to sign up if you would like to join us! Speak with **Pastor Gretchen** or **Liz Campbell** this week! As part of our prayer emphasis, a prayer wall has been erected in the Friendship Center. Prayer request forms will be placed in the bulletin each week during Lent. Completed Prayer Request forms may be placed in the offering plate, in the basket by the prayer wall, or we invite you to post your own prayer request to the wall. A compiled list of prayer requests will be printed each week that you may take home and use during your personal prayer times.



Children and their Teacher post Prayer Requests on the Prayer Wall during Sunday School Hour.

Missing Coat

A ladies long black wool coat with a fur collar and brass-gold buttons was mistakenly taken on Sunday. If found, please bring it to the church.

Notes of Thanks Received

I wanted to thank you in my official capacity for your continued generous giving to the children, youth and families at Webster-Cantrell Hall. Fifty Webster-Cantrell Hall children had a better Christmas due to gifts from the Spirit of Christmas. Central has been key to many projects, donations, and services done for and by WCH. Thank you for continuing to help those in great need who are struggling to find hope. In my role as a member of the congregation I want to say how proud I am to be associated with such a generous and caring congregation. Thank you for putting God's plans into action.

Kevin Otis, Fund Development Director Webster-Cantrell Hall

Project Success Casual Days

Each Friday in March businesses, churches and schools may participate in Project Success Casual Days by donating at least \$1 per Friday (or whichever day you choose) to go casual! Stickers are provided to show your support for Project Success of Decatur and Macon County. Project Success helps children succeed in school through promotion of student attendance and truancy prevention with the Right Track Truancy program, after-school tutoring by district teachers, family activities in schools and the coordination of the family liaisons for each school building. Project success also provides support for homeless students and their families, ensuring that they are enrolled in school and connected to appropriate community services. Support Project Success by calling them 421-8074 or by speaking with **Pastor Robert**.



Sunday, March 8, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Karen Driver, Sporo; Marilyn Ward, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School, Unbinding Groups
4:30-Youth Meeting

Monday (9)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:00-Unbinding Task Force, Friendship Center
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall

Tuesday (10)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
5:00-CADV Meeting, Disciple Room

Wednesday (11)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-Phoenix II Tea, Disciple Room
1:15-Unbinding Group, 280
5:30-Unbinding Groups, Great Hall
6:00-Unbinding Groups, Friendship Center, Choir Room

Thursday (12)

10:00-Alanon, 212
12:00-Website Task Force
5:30-Peace & Justice, 280
5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room
6:30-Family Fun Night, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (13)

12:30-FunTimers, Sullivan Little Theater

Saturday (14)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room
9:00-12:00-Pastors' Class

Counting On You

March 1

Worship Attendance 284
Sunday School Attendance 58

Serving Schedule—March 8, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - John Graham, Julie Martin

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Greg Carter
Dave Hanson
Christy Hanson
Larry Otis
Melinda Hawbaker
Scott Hawbaker
David Miller
Katie Miller
Andrew Otis
Kevin Ann Otis

Elders

Lawrence Thicksten
Jane Watkins
Mike Holbrook
Connie Bordner
Randy Brooks
Dick Cain
Jo Carter
Claudia Quigg
Bruce Campbell
Felicity Williams

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, Kathy Thornton, Kent West, Lea West

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 - David & Rosalie Poland, Bruce & Liz Campbell

10:45 - David & Katie Miller, Mary Boyle, Barb Tyler

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 -

10:45 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Becky & John Flanders, Pamela Bednar, David Flanders, Joan Stewart, Lois Whitaker

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jon Backes

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

March 11 Visitor Mailing Crew: Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

Front Door Hosts:

Mar. 9 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle

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

Mar. 10 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Mar. 11 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

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

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Mar. 13 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

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

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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
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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