



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, March 25, 2009

No. 12

## Piano Concert This Sunday

This Sunday at 4:00 p.m. hear **Douglas Ashcraft** in concert in Central's sanctuary. He began his formal training as a student of **Aldo Mancinelli** at Millikin University and went on to win prizes in many competitions. He achieved masters and doctoral degrees at the University of Southern California. He has an active performing schedule which includes recordings and solo and chamber concerts on both sides of the Atlantic. He is currently Dean of the Arts at Idyllwild Arts Academy a boarding school in southern California which prepares its students for careers in music and the arts. This concert is free and open to the public.



**SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009**  
**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**  
**Immeasurable Riches of Grace**

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10  
Charles Watkins

## Music for the Easter Season

**Palm Sunday, April 5**, we are planning for exciting music. We will welcome a Brass Ensemble to assist in worship. At second service they will accompany anthems and congregational singing.

There will be children and Chancel Bells in addition to our Chancel Choir.

**Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m.** we will meet in the Great Hall for a simple meal and a short Cantata. The stage will be set with a Living Last Supper. Each Disciple will share from his experience with Jesus. The choir will present several songs that support the words of the disciples. In the final song all will be invited to share communion.

On **Easter Sunday, April 12**, the choir will sing at both services and **Christopher Strong** will play trumpet. Invite your friends to these wonderful worship opportunities at Central.



## Sign Up for a Lily this Sunday

If you would like to contribute a lily to the Easter morning celebration at Central, the Worship Department will be taking orders in the Friendship Center this Sunday morning. The cost of each lily this year is \$13. You can designate your lily to honor the memory of one who has died or to honor the life of one who is still living.



## Building Fund Pledges Received

The congregation gathered last Sunday and presented to the glory of God our building fund giving plans for the coming three years. Campaign Advance Team Chair **Mike Holbrook** announced that the Advance Pledge effort had resulted in thirty eight cards from members planning to give \$213,000 over the next three years or 42% of the total goal of half a million dollars. Others in the congregation then completed 78 additional cards with commitments of \$161,559 which brings the total support so far to giving of \$374,559 which is 75% of our goal.

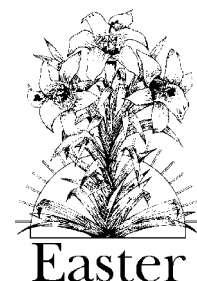
Today giving cards are being mailed out to those who have not yet added their commitments to the effort. Please call the church office (428-4336) if you have not yet received your giving card to complete.



Central Christian Church  
1834-2009

## Attention Deacons!

If you have not mailed in your diaconate dues, please send your check (made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**, 2505 W. Ash, Decatur, IL 62526. Your \$5 contribution (per deacon) helps support the reception and luncheon provided for Central's Senior Members. The luncheon this year will be Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30 p.m.**

Central Youth will meet to finish our work on the new Cardboard Recycling Center. We will be building and painting so dress appropriately.

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**  
Heifer Ranch Trip Meeting  
Panera Bread Co.

**Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
No Youth Activities

### Time to Start Thinking Camp!

**Shalom - High School**  
June 8-13<sup>th</sup>

Before May 4<sup>th</sup> \$125

**Koinonia - Jr. & Middle  
School**  
June 22-27

Before May 18<sup>th</sup> \$125

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Conference -  
Finished 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
June 14-20

Before May 12<sup>th</sup> \$125

**ADDaM Camp - High School**  
June 21-28

Before May 18<sup>th</sup> \$125

More info at  
[www.cciwdisciples.org](http://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! Estimated cost \$100. If you have not received a registration form contact Pastor Robert.

## Charles's Column

I love a parade. One of my favorite parades each week is the procession into the sanctuary as the acolyte, the choir, the clergy, the liturgist, and the elders stream down the center aisle singing to the strains of the mighty pipe organ. Each time I get to be in the parade I realize what a privilege it is to be here in this remarkable church. I also realize that it is one piece of many parades taking place all over the world in houses of worship great and small, in world capitals and remote villages. People of every language and race and social class parade into the presence of God and offer their praise and thanks to the Eternal One. Imagine so many different people on every continent engaged in the same parade of the faithful.

This year as we celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation's founding in 1834, I am aware that the Sunday morning parade is not made up just of those who are living and breathing on our planet today. No, this parade of believers streams ahead of us and behind us to include all those in every time and beyond time who have lifted their hearts and voices to God, seeking to bless God because God has blessed us.

Last Sunday I invited you to include in the parade that band of twelve Disciples living in Decatur with its six dirt streets who came together to form our congregation under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Hostetler. They thought they were striking out on their own in this frontier place to depart from European ecclesiastical traditions imported into this country from its beginning. They wanted to re-imagine our faith in a way that declared all Christian believers are actually part of one church, and that we need to reform ourselves so that we look more like that God-given reality. We know now that it was naïve to think that centuries of theology and tradition could be cast aside just to start over fresh in this fresh, new land. But we admire that they made the attempt to take the promise of America and apply it to an ancient religion.

As we march in this parade of the faithful, we do not abandon the dream of Christian unity as our "polar star." For us it requires valuing and respecting our sisters and brothers who are devoted to other churches and other ways of believing and serving. It requires constant vigilance for opportunities to join with those who are different from us in pursuit of common ideals and goals. It requires humility, recognizing that our way is not the only way. And it requires an awareness of ourselves as part of that greater community of those who love God and serve neighbor all over the world and throughout all the ages.

One reason Jane and I are making a three-year commitment to Central's building fund is that we want to be part of the parade of faithful ones who have built and sustained this congregation and its mission of witness and service from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

*Charles Watkins*

## Ecumenical Lenten Services

Several local congregations participate in a series of Ecumenical Lenten Services on Sunday afternoons at **4 p.m.** All are invited and welcome to participate!

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** at Prairie Avenue Christian Church, 2201 E. Prairie Ave. with Father Jeff Grant of St. Patrick & St. James Catholic Churches preaching.

## An Invitation to Join us in Prayer

As part of our Lenten emphasis on Prayer and Faith-sharing, the Unbinding Your Heart Prayer Team invites all members and friends of Central Christian Church to join together at noon each day (from wherever you are) for the remainder of Lent, to focus your thoughts and say this simple prayer. "Oh God, we thank you for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ and we give to you our hearts (take a breath), our hands (take a breath), our homes (take a breath), our hopes (take a breath), our lives (take a breath). Amen."



## Donations Needed for School Kits

The World Outreach Department will continue to collect donations of needed items for School Kits through Easter Sunday. Our Dorcas Disciples Women's Group has adopted the Health Kits as their special project so we would like you to help us with donations for the School Kits. This week we would like you to bring blunt rounded tip scissors, hand held pencil sharpeners, and pencils. 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.

## Looking for Wedding Photos

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force would like to collect pictures from weddings at Central over the last 175 years. If you were married at Central or your parents or grandparents or children, please share a picture from the wedding. We will copy your photograph, return the original to you, and prepare a display of wedding photographs in June. Be sure to identify the bride and groom in the photograph.



## Notes of Thanks Received

I want to thank the ministers for their visits and the congregation for their prayers and support, as well as for their cards. I am home now recuperating.

### Phyllis Logan

Our sincere thanks to the dedicated ministerial staff of the church for their faithful visits to Mildred Upchurch throughout her illness. She did appreciate them and was proud to mention them. The prayers and cards of the congregation were helpful daily.

The minister's homily at the funeral service was comforting in part because "he talked about the Mildred we all knew" as one person explained her feelings.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Shirley Swarhout and her helpers for serving a delicious luncheon. For some, this was the first time they had a chance to visit and grieve together.

Central is a special church and you are much appreciated.

### The Mildred Upchurch Family



## Sunday, March 29, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Ward, Piano  
8:15-Anthem; Central Singers  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
9:30-Unbinding Groups, 212, Great Hall, Disciple Room  
1:30-Youth  
4:00-Douglas Ashcraft Piano Concert, Sanctuary

## Monday (30)

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room, Great Hall

## Tuesday (31)

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

## Wednesday (April 1)

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

## Thursday (2)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
10:00-2:00-CCIW Annual Fund meeting, Great Hall  
10:15-1:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room  
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Counting On You

### March 22

Worship Attendance ..... 252  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 53

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## Serving Schedule—March 29, 2009

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Becky Johnston, Jody Featherstun

### 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, 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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski  
10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Capt., Pamela Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Greeters:

8:15 - Ed & Joy Adams, *Help Needed*  
10:45 - Bruce & Felicity Williams, Glen & Jody Featherstun

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Doug & Cindy Soebbing, Andy Wilson

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos  
10:45 - Joshua Bushey

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash  
10:45 - Jim Hinze

### 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 - Keith Backes  
10:45 service only - Richard Ward

### April 1 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

### Hosts:

Mar. 30 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Mar. 31 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*  
Apr. 1 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith  
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong  
Apr. 2 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams  
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd  
Apr. 3 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore  
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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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

