



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, April 1, 2009

No. 13

## Last Sunday to Order a Lily

If you want to provide a lily to decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning in honor or in memory of someone who matters to you, you can place your order with the Worship Department this Sunday in the Friendship Center. Your lily will be delivered to the church and placed on display, and you can take it home after the second service or share it with a friend. The cost is \$13.



## Invite Someone to Church for Easter!

The next two Sundays, Palm Sunday and Easter, provide excellent opportunities to invite someone you know (friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors or others who aren't currently participating in a church community) to experience the Central Difference! Invite them to join you, offer to pick them up, make sure and sit with them and maybe even take them out to eat following the service. What a wonderful gift to give to someone you care about!

## Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal and program and delightful fellowship together on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu includes Chicken Salad on a Croissant, Fresh Fruit, chips and dessert. Cost for the meal is just \$4 per person (the best deal in town). Following lunch, our own **Sharon Andrews** will be with us (along with some four-footed friends) to help us learn more about the work and ministry of therapy dogs. You won't want to miss this fun and informative program! To sign up, you will need to call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. If you think you would like to come but are not yet sure, please go ahead and make a reservation. We would rather have food left over than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

## An Invitation to Join 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."

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**He Humbled Himself**  
Text: Philippians 2:5-11  
Charles Watkins



## Music for the Easter Season

This Sunday is **Palm Sunday**. We are planning exciting music as we 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, 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.

**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.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**High School Youth**  
**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**

Heifer Ranch Trip Meeting  
Panera Bread Co.

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00-5 p.m.**

Central Youth will meet to finish our work on the new Cardboard Recycling Center. The weather postponed our project and we hope to finish it this week. We will be building and painting so dress appropriately.

**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

For more than a thousand years this coming week in the calendar of the western Christian tradition has been marked as the holiest week of the year. Beginning Palm Sunday and continuing through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday leading up to Easter, these days hold the treasure of our faith, the story of salvation in Jesus Christ.

But will next week be holy in your life? Liturgically, scripturally, and theologically it is holy. Will it mean anything to you? It is now possible to live next week just as any other and to notice nothing different in the routine of day to day. It takes your own conscious commitment and personal effort to make the week holy in your own life and experience.

Alexander Campbell opposed having any special emphasis on Easter, because he taught that every Sunday is Resurrection Day and every Sunday should be a truly holy day. We must agree that if each of us would treat every Sunday as Easter, if the church's worship were overflowing with Resurrection Day believers every single week, then the church would be fifty times stronger. But I think that there is both wisdom and practicality in marking the specialness of Easter along with the rest of western Christianity. (Easter in the Eastern Orthodox traditions is April 19 this year).

So how do you make this week holy in your life? A good place to begin is morning worship at Central on Palm Sunday. Receive your own palm branch to wave and join the glad welcome of Jesus into the Holy City for the beginning of Passover. Our church's music ministry is going all out for this celebration, and if you participate in worship, your week will begin in a meaningful way.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, set aside an extra time of prayer. Read the passion account from one of the gospels through at one sitting and let the dramatic sweep of events draw you into the history of salvation that we celebrate. Give God thanks for coming to us in Jesus, give Christ thanks for laying down his life on our behalf, and give the Holy Spirit thanks for being with us whenever we take up our cross and follow. If you have fallen behind in reading the daily devotional messages in the *Fellowship of Prayer* booklets distributed in the narthex throughout Lent, catch up.

On Thursday, the day when the Church remembers the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples just before he was arrested, a simple meal and worship service are planned for the Great Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. The observance will include several anthems of sacred music, and a tableau of the Last Supper with narration.

With this additional preparation of your soul for Easter, you will be ready to greet the joy of Resurrection Day on April 12 and welcome the members of the Pastors' Class into the church at their baptism Easter morning. May God's Easter blessings be yours.

*Charles Watkins*

## Donations Needed for School Kits

The World Outreach Department continues to collect donations 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 70-count spiral bound notebooks and 24-count crayons. If you would rather make a donation, please mark "school/health kits" in your check memo line. Put donated supplies in the basket in the Friendship Center.

## Have You Sent In Your Reservation Yet?

Women interested in attending the Regional Spring Women's event, Taste & See, on April 25<sup>th</sup> are reminded to send in their registration before April 10<sup>th</sup>. Special Guest will be Verity Jones, editor and publisher of *Disciples World Magazine* and a lively new magazine for women – *Just Women*. We will gather, share, and learn together on the Illinois State University Campus in Normal. The \$29 registration fee 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!

## Welcoming Those You Don't Know at Central

We've all experienced it. That uncomfortable feeling that comes when you see someone you don't know at church. You want to welcome them and introduce yourself but you don't know if they are a member or not and you don't want to embarrass yourself or them. What if they've belonged to Central for years? Will you offend them by asking them if they're new here? Perhaps one way around this dilemma is to simply approach them and introduce yourself. Don't worry if they are a member or not. You might just say something like, "Hi, I'm \_\_\_ and I don't think I've met you before." If they're visiting, they will probably tell you. And if they're a member at Central, they're probably going to tell you that as well. In the process, you've met someone new and they've met you. Isn't that wonderful!

## H2O Back in Session

Central's afterschool tutoring project at Hope Academy resumed this week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30–4:45 p.m. Volunteers are needed to provide help to nearly 30 students in grades 2-7. See **Pastor Robert** for details.

## Diaconate Thank You and Reminder

Thank you to the deacons who have sent in your diaconate dues. Your \$5 contribution (per deacon) helps support the reception and luncheon, which will be Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, for Central's Senior Members. If you have not yet mailed in your dues, please send your check (made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**.



### April 5, 2009 Palm Sunday

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
 Music: 8:15 Offertory-Brass Ensemble  
 10:45 Offertory-Organ, Brass, Chancel Choir, Children, Chancel Bells  
 10:45 Anthem-Organ, Brass, Chancel Choir  
 9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic  
 9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
 9:30-Sunday School, Unbinding Groups  
 12:00-Youth, Panera Bread Co.

### Monday (6)

6:30-CACS Dept., 280  
 6:30-Boy Scouts

### Tuesday (7)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting  
 12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room  
 3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
 6:00-LTQ, Great Hall  
 6:00-Unbinding Task Force  
 6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

### Wednesday (8)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240  
 12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall  
 12:00-Central Singers  
 1:15-Unbinding Group, Disciple Room  
 5:30-Unbinding Groups, Great Hall  
 6:15-Unbinding Groups

### Thursday (9)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
 3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School  
 6:00-Maundy Thursday, Great Hall

### Friday (10) Good Friday

### Saturday (11)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room  
 9:00-10:30-Pastors' Class

## Counting On You

### March 29

Worship Attendance ..... 262  
 Sunday School Attendance ..... 50

## Note of Thanks Received

Thank you to the ministers for their visits and to all who sent cards and prayers while I was in the hospital. God bless you all.

**Virginia Ferre**

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## Serving Schedule—April 5, 2009

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Janet Lyman, Mark Beal

### Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Lawrence Thicksten & Jane Watkins

### 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, Besty Osman, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Brett Swallow, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Kathy Thornton, Kent West, Lea West

### 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 - Norman & Darla Lienemann, Bill & Mary Alice Rule

10:45 - Neil & Karen Baird, Steve & Carrie Funk

### Parish Nurse:

Liz Campbell

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

John & Carol Graham

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Rachel Ash

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Larry Pepper

### Preparation of Communion:

Evelyn Sperry, Ann Carnock, Gregg & Linda Foltz, Carol Graham

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

### April 8 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

### Hosts:

Apr. 6 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Apr. 7 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

Apr. 8 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Apr. 9 9:00-12:30 - Louise Boline

12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Apr. 10 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

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](mailto: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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