



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, April 8, 2009

No. 13

Easter Egg Hunt for All Children

The Children & Youth Sunday School classes will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for all children on the West Lawn this Sunday, April 12th. Children (toddler – 5th Grade) should meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 260 (2nd floor of the Nichols Education Wing). The hunt will begin at 9:45 a.m. and we will enjoy refreshments afterwards in the Friendship Center. We will have an alternative location inside in case of inclement weather. Come and join the fun as we celebrate our Risen Lord!

Extended Fellowship Coffee for Easter Sunday

The Dorcas Disciples Women's Group is hosting an extended time of Fellowship Coffee for Easter Sunday, April 12th. We invite you to come and enjoy a sweet treat and some chat time with your church family between 9 and 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Center.

Decatur CIOP Team Making Progress

The Decatur team of the Central Illinois Organizing Project is making progress in our efforts against predatory lending practices in our community. Recently, eight members of CIOP met in Decatur with Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan as her office rolled out their information on mortgage foreclosures and preventing mortgage rescue scams. Ms. Madigan repeatedly told the other Decatur clergy and leaders present that CIOP is one of her office's strongest partners in the fight against predatory lending in Illinois.

The Decatur team is making plans for a visit from a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors to Decatur this summer to see firsthand the devastating results of the current foreclosure crisis. The visit is one of ten to communities across the USA promised by Chairman Ben Bernanke and three other Governors at a meeting with the National People's Action that **Pastor Robert** chaired in a board room of the Federal Reserve in Washington DC last month.

The Decatur CIOP team includes Central Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Trinity CME Church, St. Peter's AME Church, First Lutheran Church,



Grace United Methodist Church, NAACP Decatur Branch as well as other community leaders. You may learn more about the work that CIOP does at www.ciop.org As a faith based organization, CIOP believes that working for justice is an important part of our witness as followers of the risen Christ.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Sunrise Surprise!

Text: John 20:1-18
Charles Watkins

Music for the Easter Season

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.

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.

Central's First Monthly Fellowship Sunday is April 19

Do you enjoy a tasty lunch? Even better, a tasty lunch in the company of dear friends? If so, Central's Fellowship Department is providing an opportunity you won't want to miss. Starting this month, Central will celebrate "Fellowship Sunday" with a meal and fellowship time on the third Sunday of each month. At the first Fellowship Sunday April 19, we will recognize Central's newest members.

Plan now to attend the April 19 lunch. To make your reservation, please write "Fellowship" next to your name in the friendship register this Sunday or call the church office.

Central Youth

Easter Sunday, April 12th
No Youth Activities

Sunday, April 19th
5:00-6 p.m.

Come learn about Church
Camps planned for this summer.

We will have food & fun.

Youth are invited to the
Just Flicks film *El Norte*
beginning at 6 p.m. The film is
about two teens who escape
oppression in Central America
and travel north to the USA
to begin a new life.

Time to Start Registering for 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!
Estimated cost \$100. If you
have not received a registra-
tion form contact **Pastor
Robert**. Forms are due by
April 19th.

Charles's Column

Easter is not about Jesus only. It is about you. It is about everyone that matters to you. It is about God and God's determination that death shall not rule the future.

On Good Friday this week we come face to face with the awful truth that death always wins. Even though Jesus was life and the one "through whom all things were created," now we watch him die a grisly and gruesome death, a victim of torture and capital punishment. And it is easy for us and the world to conclude that death always wins. That is the Good Friday perspective, and that's where we live most of our days. Prospects for us and those we love are grim.

But then on Easter, fortunes are reversed, and the world's great, "No!" is answered by God's astounding "YES!" As Jesus put it to his Disciples on the night he was arrested: "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19). The Apostle Paul tells the Corinthians and us that "if for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died." Our faith teaches that Jesus was the first, but not the last, "for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ." (I Corinthians 15:22-23)

The Christian hope rests entirely upon the resurrection of Christ Jesus, the eternal love of God, and God's powerful victory over death. And our hope has implications for our daily lives. In one of my favorite Easter Prayers, Henry Sloane Coffin, a pulpit giant of the twentieth century prays:

"Lord of life, from whom we come and unto whom we go, and from whose love neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come can separate us, help us to know that every follower of Christ is with Him alive unto Thee. To every soul whose thoughts go to some loved one's grave, let the angel of thy comfort say, 'He is not here; he is risen.' Lovely unto us were they in their lives; assure us that in Thy sight their deaths were precious, and may they mean no less to us now than in the days of their flesh. Convince us that Thou art still unfolding all the powers of the love it was ours to draw out here, and certify us that they still belong to us in Thee, O God unto whom all live."

May the Easter blessings of strong faith and hope be yours this Holy Week.

Charles Watkins

Coming Soon to Just Flicks Sunday, April 19th

Next up for the Just Flicks film series is *El Norte* (1985), an acclaimed independent film that presents a riveting story of "illegal immigrants." *El Norte* is a realistic picture of both the Guatemalan government's oppression of the Quiche Indians and the hard life of immigrants in the United States. After the Guatemalan army destroys their village of San Pedro, two teenage Quiche Mayan Indian siblings journey north (hence *El Norte*) through Mexico to the United States to start a new life. The drama features Zaide Silvia Gutiérrez and David Villalpando, in their first film roles, as two indigenous youths who flee Guatemala in the early 1980s due to ethnic and political persecution. *El Norte* received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay in 1985, the first American independent film to be so honored.

We'll watch it on **Sunday, April 19**, at Central Christian Church starting at 6 p.m. Historian Mark Sorensen is slated to lead the discussion.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bonnie Sauer** and family following the April 1st death of her brother, *Dale Clausing* of Minnesota.....to **Louise Boline** and **Rosie Doore** following the death of their niece, *Rebecca Ward Freeman* on April 2nd.....and to **Bob & Lucy Smith** following the death of her cousin *Lisa Lindsay Whitworth Dodds* on March 25.

Congratulations to **Bryan Rutherford & Fran Johnson** on the April 3rd birth of their son **Samuel Allen Rutherford**. Samuel is also welcomed home by his big sister, **Emily** and big brother, **Brandon**. Grandparents are **Penny & Gary Rutherford**; great-grandparents are **George William & Eleanor Rutherford**.

Donations Needed for School Kits

The World Outreach Department continues to collect donations of needed items for School Kits through Easter Sunday. 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. Donated supplies may be dropped into the basket in the Friendship Center.

Volunteer Opportunity — Faith in Action

Additional volunteers are needed to keep up with the growing demand for services that many elderly have come to depend on. Even if you have only 1 to 2 hours per week to contribute – you could be helping a homebound person combat loneliness or provide a ride to a medical appointment. Please consider becoming a Faith in Action volunteer to help your neighbors maintain their independence. Speak with **Pastor Gretchen** if you're interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity.

Closer to the Goal!

The 2009-2012 building fund campaign has already achieved 82% of its 500,000 goal, but there are still 200 contributing families in our congregation who have not responded yet with a giving card. Central can easily meet this challenge with the full participation of each of us doing our own part, whatever we think is the right amount for us over the next three years. Giving cards are available in the pew pockets, on the ledge by the office, and at your request. Call the church office (428-4336) to have a card mailed to you today!



Counting On You

April 5

Worship Attendance 358
Sunday School Attendance 60



Sunday, April 12, 2009 *Easter Sunday*

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Christopher Strong,
Trumpet; John Baird, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
No Parish Nurse Clinic Today
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
9:40-Easter Egg Hunt, West Lawn

Monday (13)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room &
Great Hall

Tuesday (14)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
3:30-6:00-CADV, Disciple Room
5:30-Shepherding Dept., Volunteer Rm.

Wednesday (15)

9:00-Baby Talk, 240
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-CIOP, Disciple Room
2:00-White Memorial Service,
Sanctuary
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room

Thursday (16)

10:00-Alanon, 212
3:30-H2O Hope School
5:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir

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."

Serving Schedule—April 12, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mary Jane Oliver, Larry Otis

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Gene Garver
Sandy Garver
Bev Chapman
Merle Chapman
Dennis Downey
Al Fagin
Chris Fagin
Sally Force
Dean Gray
Janet Gray

Elders

Jody Featherstun
Robert Garrett
Scott Hawbaker
John McClarey
Julie Martin
Keith Backes
Mark Beal
Lois Whitaker
Becky Johnston
Janet Lyman
Alternate: Randy Brooks

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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos

10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Capt., Marilyn Blank, Lucy Acheson, Dick Cain, Sue Ann Cain, Rosie Doore

Greeters:

8:15 - Shirley Petri, Carol Charlton, Harold & Bess King

10:45 - Randy, Shirley, Jessica Brooks, Dee Hill

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Dorcas Disciples

Acolyte:

10:45 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jon Backes
10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

April 15 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Apr. 13 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Apr. 14 9:00-12:30 - Sue Ann Cain
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer
Apr. 15 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
Apr. 16 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Apr. 17 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
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
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

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



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(Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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