



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, April 15, 2009

No. 15

Now Showing at Just Flicks

The next Just Flicks film series is this Sunday in the Great Hall at 6:00 p.m. It 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 through Mexico to the United States to start a new life. *El Norte* received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay in 1985. Historian Mark Sorensen is slated to lead the discussion.

Easter Morning Baptisms



Members of the Pastors' class were baptized on Easter Sunday, April 12.

Remember Your Baptism

As Martin Luther, the great 16th century reformer of Christianity was famously comforted by his baptism (see #370 in your *Chalice Hymnal*), you are invited to be comforted and encouraged remembering your baptism this Sunday. The 175th Anniversary Task Force will remind you with a fountain in the Friendship Center that you are baptized. With baptism in worship last Sunday and the last Sunday of the month, Central is celebrating 175 years of baptism, including your own. Remember and rejoice in your salvation!

Diaconate Sponsors Annual Senior Members Luncheon

Saturday, May 2nd, the Deacons are honoring Central's senior members, who have attained the age of 70 or better, with a reception at 11:30 a.m. in the Disciple Room and a luncheon at noon in the Great Hall. Spouses are also invited to attend.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
No Darkness at All!
Text: I John 1:1-10
Charles Watkins

New Musical Group

This Sunday at both worship services you will have the opportunity to hear a new musical group that has been preparing to lead you in worship. The singers are young adults who enjoy various styles of music including gospel and jazz. If you would like to join them (anyone is welcome) in making joyful music, contact **Don Martin**.

Fellowship Sunday Lunch is This Sunday, April 19

If you haven't made your reservation for Central's all-church fellowship lunch this Sunday, call the church office today, 428-4336.

Throughout 2009 Central will celebrate "Fellowship Sunday" on the third Sunday of each month. The Fellowship Department will provide a tasty meal and an opportunity for fellowship with your Central friends and family. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend Fellowship Sunday each month!

Millikin University Choirs
Spring Concert
Sunday, April 19
6:00 p.m.
at
Central Christian Church

Central Youth

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 registration form contact **Pastor Robert**. Forms are due by April 19th.

Charles's Column

Last Saturday morning at 8:30, the elders of Central Christian Church had just finished their monthly breakfast praying for you and Decatur and the world. As we were coming up out of the church basement to see the most beautiful day so far this year, the lily truck arrived.

The driver apologized. He wasn't scheduled to arrive until 10am when the Worship Department volunteers led by **Carol Graham** and **Sue Ann Cain** would arrange the plants across and above the chancel of our church. I told him that I liked early better than late. He pulled the truck around to the west entrance, and for the first time in my experience, he unloaded the lilies on four-storied wheeled carts all wrapped in plastic to protect them. Wow! What an improvement! We could go from the truck through the west doors onto the elevator, through the Friendship Center and down the center aisle. But the wheeled cart was too tall to go through the door into the hallway where the elevator waited. So it was back to "plan A" with offloading each tray of six blooming lily plants onto the church's flat cart.

And, by the way, do you know that blooming lilies grab on to each other and enfold blooms from one into the leaves of the next as if they are afraid of what might happen to them? They stick together and, given any opportunity, will pull each other over. Then many of the lilies are so heavy with beauty that they want to fall over and spill their foiled pots onto the carpet. Balancing lilies is much more difficult than you might expect. Often I have walked into the chancel on Easter morning to see lilies that have shifted their weight in the heat of the night and thrown themselves off their perches committing floricide, spilling vermiculite, soil and blossoms onto the floor below. (Yes, that's me on my knees with a brush sweeping the dirt back into the pots).

So then with the flat cart heavily laden with lilies madly hugging each other, we made trip after trip up the center aisle to the chancel. Then I signed the truck driver's invoice, and he was away by 9 a.m. As we off-loaded the cart, first in the west entry and then at the foot of the chancel, I was aware that each of these blooming plants was ordered in honor or in memory of someone who is deeply loved now and forever. Each pot of blooming and budding lilies is precious in the heart and memory of you or someone you know.

And so at last all the dozens and dozens and dozens of lilies were carefully in place, beautiful, fragrant and trumpeting the victory of eternal life over death, resurrection over despair, hope over grief. They transformed our sanctuary into a garden of glorious faith and hope.

You saw them Sunday in their glory. They and the musicians and you gave glory to God on Christianity's holiest day. I hope and believe that God was pleased.

Charles Watkins

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 provided for Central's Senior Members. The luncheon this year will be Saturday, May 2nd. If you have not yet mailed in your dues, please send your check (made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**, 2505 W. Ash, Decatur, IL 62526.

Easter Offering Update

“Go Light Your World” has been the special Easter Offering Theme this year. The special Easter Offering helps support the General Ministries of our church. Areas supported by these special over-and-above gifts include the Division of Overseas Ministries, Higher Education and Leadership, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Church Extension, Communication, Disciples Benevolent Services, Home Missions and more! The World Outreach Department set a goal of \$3,651 for our 2009 Easter Offering. This was based on a 10% increase to our five-year average of giving to the Easter Special Offering. To date, Central members and friends have given \$2690 to the Easter Special Offering. If you’ve not yet given to the Easter Special Offering, or if you would like to increase your gift to this important fund, it’s not too late. Simply write “Easter Offering” in the memo line on your check and drop it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Thank you for the many ways that you “Light Your World” and for the gifts that you make to support the wider, General Ministries of the church!

Our Children at Play



Children scurry on the west lawn during the morning Easter Egg Hunt!

Quaker Singers to Sing at Central

Quaker Singers from Friends University will be in concert at Central on **Wednesday, May 13**. This group of 79 singers will need places to stay. **Please consider hosting two or more students for the night.** Besides a bed, they will need breakfast in the morning and a sack lunch for the road. These times of interaction with students are very rewarding. For more information contact **Don Martin**.

Note of Thanks Received

I want to thank the pastoral staff for all the prayers and visits to the hospital during my surgery and to the Central family, thank you for all the prayers, flowers, cards, visits and telephone calls. God has been very good to me. Thanks again and God Bless.

Frances Heiserman



Sunday, April 19, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music:Offertory-Jubilee!, Janice Mitchell, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir;
Janice Mitchell, Piano
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
12:00-Central Sunday Fellowship Luncheon, Great Hall
5:00-Youth Meeting
6:00-Just Flicks, Great Hall
6:00-Millikin Concert Choirs, Sanctuary

Monday (20)

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

Tuesday (21)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
11:30-Ecumenical Clergy, Disciple Rm.
12:00-5:30-Habitat Meeting, Parlor
1:00-CIOP Meeting, Disciple Room
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
6:00-LTQ, Great Hall

Wednesday (22)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
9:30-6:00-Habitat Meeting, Disciple Room
12:00-Central Singers
6:00-Jubilee!, Choir Room

Thursday (23)

10:00-Alanon, 212
11:30-Habitat Meeting, Disciple Room
3:30-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (25)

8:30-2:30-Millikin Children's Choir Rehearsal, Parlor, Music Room, Great Hall
10:00-Criminal Justice Group, Disciple Room

Serving Schedule—April 19, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Claudia Quigg, Jo Carter

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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal, Charlotte Lyon, Barbara Tyler

Greeters:

8:15 - Bob & Wanda Webb, Mary Kincaid, Roe Skidmore
10:45 - Howard & Marguerite Cravens, Clyde & Jean Booher

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Carol Charlton & Shirley Petri

Acolytes:

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash
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 - Doug Soebbing,
10:45 service only - Karen Baird,

April 22 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

Apr. 20 9:00-12:30 - Gail Prince
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
Apr. 21 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Apr. 22 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew
Apr. 23 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon
Apr. 24 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
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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Counting On You

April 12

Worship Attendance 520
Sunday School Attendance 61



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

