



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, April 29, 2009

No. 17

Dinner for Eight

The Shepherding Department wants to sign you up for Dinner – Dinners for Eight! The dinners provide a unique opportunity for Central members and friends to get to know each other in a relaxed, informal atmosphere, usually in the host's home. Sign up begin this Sunday. Once you've signed up, you will receive a letter which tells you which group you are assigned to and who will act as your host. Members of each group decide the best date and time to meet and who will bring which dinner items. The groups are asked to meet one time for dinner in May. When you sign up, be sure and let us know if you are able and willing to host one of the group gatherings. For more information, contact **Pastor Gretchen**. Sign up this Sunday for Dinner for Eight.

Mother's Day Breakfast for Dove, Inc.

The CACS Department is planning to sponsor a Mother's Day Breakfast on **Sunday, May 10th** from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Great Hall. The breakfast will be catered by Dove's Fresh Start Catering and is a fundraiser for Dove, Inc. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available in the Friendship Center this Sunday, May 3rd for \$7 per person or in the office through May 6th. Central was one of the founding congregations for Dove which will complete 39 years of service for Decatur in July. Dove, Inc. changes the lives of approximately 5,000 people a year through a diverse offering of programs and activities for those in need. Dove, Inc. combines the power of over 900 volunteers, more than 60 member congregations, and a diversely talented staff to offer these services. Support Dove, honor motherhood, and share in food and fellowship on Sunday, May 10th.

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
The Good Shepherd
Text: John 10:11-18
Charles Watkins

Blessing of Children

A service of Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents will be on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10th during both services. If you would like to be included in this service, please contact the church office before May 6th at 428-4336.

Prayer Service – May 3rd

The Unbinding Your Heart Prayer team invites you to a brief prayer service on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:30 a.m. We will meet in the West Parking Lot as we dedicate and burn the Prayer Requests that were placed on the Prayer Wall during Lent. Although the Prayer Wall has been removed from the Friendship Center, please note that the Prayer Team will continue to receive prayer requests. Prayer Request forms are in the Pew Pockets in the sanctuary and balcony. The prayer team will continue to hold these requests up in prayer.

Central Sunday Dinner!

It's time to sign up again for Central Sunday Dinner at noon on May 17th! The emphasis this month is education. We'll gather in the Great Hall for a delightful meal and fellowship. Sign up this Sunday by marking an "F" beside your name on the Pew Registration pad.



Youth Column

Central Youth
Sunday, May 3rd
3-5 p.m.

Youth Mission Activities

Youth will help assemble supplies we collected during Lent for the Church World Service School Kits.

6-7:30 p.m.
Heifer Ranch Trip
Meeting
Great Hall

ALL Youth attending the Heifer Ranch Trip need to be present as we make plans for our June trip.

Sunday, May 10th

All Youth are encouraged to help serve at the Mother's Day Breakfast from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Great Hall.

Camp Deadlines Nearing!

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

Genesis Camp

Finished 2nd-3rd Grades
July 2-4

Before May 25th \$75

More info at

www.cciwdisciples.org

Charles's Column

This is certainly old news now, but I can't resist. The night before Easter this month a Scottish woman named Susan Boyle went onto the stage of the TV show *Britain's Got Talent*. The show's format borrows from your junior high talent show and from the *American Idol* phenomenon. It even has the acerbic, cynical (might I say "nasty") Simon Cowell as one of the judges to sneer and gloat and demean the aspiring singers and dancers and other amateur performers who appear in futile hope of "getting a break" into show business, fame and fortune. The format takes advantage of the self-delusional, naïve, and often pitiful folks among us who dare to stand up in front of an audience and do our best, perhaps to laughter, derision, and ridicule. I was contemplating that predicament myself on the night before Easter. All night long.

So Susan Boyle walks out on stage the night before Easter with a big microphone in what some observers called a frumpy beige dress, forty-seven years old, single, living alone with her cat Pebbles in a little Scottish village in West Lothian, and quoted as having "never had a boyfriend...never been kissed." She presents a pleasant, middle-aged face, frizzy brown hair, a dumpy figure, and quite formidable eyebrows. And as she starts to answer the judge's questions about who she is, all the audience roll their eyes, deeply embarrassed for her, so impossible, so pitiful, and so unlikely. It is our worst fear about ourselves presented now for world-wide contempt.

Susan Boyle announced that she would sing "I Dream a Dream" from *Les Miserables*. Eyes keep rolling, and some of us slump down in our seats for the coming humiliation. Bring on the hook! Bang the gong! Watch Simon Cowell throw up his hands and sneer!

And then, OMG, she opens her mouth and blows the whole world away. She is amazing! She is fantastic! Her performance is stunning, moving, beautiful, powerful and clear. Cynical judges start tearing up. Audience starts screaming, standing up, waving arms. Susan Boyle is oblivious and just keeps singing to the utter amazement and delight of everyone watching. She is so good, so pure, so truthful, and so clear in her presentation with such good pitch, such good control, such strong voice, and such stunning presence. Everyone who sees her is electrified, gratified, thrilled, and delighted. And she just keeps singing.

And after she's done astounding the whole world, she frumps off to the wings until the judges call her back and fall all over themselves with accolades and wonder at how good she is, how beautiful her performance, how deeply satisfying her song. By Wednesday after Easter, seven million people had watched her (some of us over and over) on YouTube and by Sunday twelve million had watched. By now, probably seventy or maybe seven hundred million have watched her. And some of us have wept.

This is a taste of Easter. The completely unexpected. The defiance of the world's view and prejudices. The casting down of the world's standards and anticipation. The exaltation of the humble and unassuming. The vindication of the weak and lowly. The absolute victory of the one who had no chance, no hope, no possibility.

Susan Boyle said "I would love to be in musical theater. I have just never had the opportunity" The only place she ever sang before was in her church choir in rural Scotland. Be sure you get that. Do you want to ascend to world acclaim? Join the church choir! It's Easter. The world and its idols are mistaken. God is true, and love will win! Believe it!

Charles Watkins

Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th at 6 p.m. at O'Charley's. Members and friends of Central are invited to join together for a fun evening of fun, laughter, fellowship and great food. Invite a friend to join you and sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

Young Adults and Families – Zoo and Cookout on May 16th!

All Young Families and Young Adults (we'll let you decide if you qualify) are invited for a fun afternoon at the Scovill Zoo followed by a cookout on Saturday, May 16th. We'll meet in the Zoo Parking Lot at 3 p.m. and spend a couple of hours walking and talking with the animals before we gather at the Picnic area for a Cookout/Potluck. Grillmeister will be **Dave Hanson**. Cost of admission (group rate) is \$1.75 per person (child or adult). Train and Carousel rides are \$1.25 each. Bring your own meat to grill and a potluck dish or item to share, as well as your own table service and beverage. Sign up in the Friendship Center starting this Sunday if you're interested in going. If you don't want to go to the zoo, just join us for the cookout! For more information, speak with **Don Martin** or **Pastor Gretchen**.

Scholarship Application Deadline May 24th

Applications for the Kirby, Schilling and Traylor Scholarships are available at the church office and are due back by May 24th. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need, however, participation in church, school and community activities are considered, as well.

Cardboard Recycling Has Returned to Central!

The recycling center is for cardboard ONLY and will be open for you to deposit your cardboard every Sunday morning with the exception of instances of heavy rainfall. Flattened cardboard may be recycled at the new Cardboard Recycling Center located on the Northwest corner of the Parking Lot. This project is NOT a fundraiser. All cardboard collected will be recycled by the Dove/Macon Resources recycling partnership. Acceptable items include: packaging boxes, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, paper towel tubes, and corrugated cardboard. Non-acceptable items include: magazines, paper, styrofoam or plastic packaging, or fast food containers with food scraps in them.

Singing Quakers to Sing at Central

Singing Quakers from Friends University, in Wichita, Kansas, will be in concert at Central on **Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m.** This is a select vocal organization of 79 voices with a reputation for high musical quality. They tour annually and have performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City. **Organist Anna Jeter** will also be featured.

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**.



Sunday, May 3, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Julia Jamieson, Harp
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Harp
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
9:30-Dedication of Prayer Requests,
West Parking Lot
11:15-Children's Worship
6:00-Youth Heifer Trip Meeting

Monday (4)

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

Tuesday (5)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room
6:00-LTQ, Great Hall
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

Wednesday (6)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Central Singers
5:15-175th Anniversary Task Force,
Disciple Room
5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room
6:00-Young Adults Study & Prayer,
Great Hall
6:15-Unbinding Group, Parlor
6:30-Preschool Board, 280
7:15-Jubilee!, Choir Room

Thursday (7)

10:00-Alanon, 212
10:15-HSAC Board, Parlor
10:30-Preschool Mothers Tea,
Disciple Room & Great Hall
11:45-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room
6:00-Chancel Bells
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (8)

8:00-11:00-United Way, Great Hall

Saturday (9)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

April 26

Worship Attendance 281
Sunday School Attendance 60

Serving Schedule—May 3, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Dick Cain & Connie Bordner

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Keith Backes & Janet Lyman

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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski

10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Capt., Pam Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:15 - Dennis & Debbie Downey, Al & Chris Fagin

10:45 - Ron & Jan Dobbs, Bruce & Carol Stoddard

Parish Nurse:

Mary Jane Linton

Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Ed & Joy Adams

Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Carol Charlton, Shirley Petri, Don & Virginia Swallow

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

May 6 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

May 4 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 5 9:00-12:30 - Nancy Taylor
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 6 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

May 7 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

May 8 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*

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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Central Christian Church
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