



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, October 28, 2009

No. 43



### **Farewell, Decatur Concert**

**Leslie Peart**, Central's organist for the last twelve years, will complete his devoted service to our congregation on November 15 with a **Farewell, Decatur** Concert at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Be sure to be on hand to say "thank you" and "good-bye." Leslie will be retiring to Corpus Christi, Texas, on November 18. Invite your friends and neighbors to hear Leslie's farewell concert on November 15.

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

### **They in Glory Shine**

Text: Revelation 7:9-17

Charles Watkins

### **"Fall Back" This Sunday!**

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. this Sunday, November 1. Please set your alarm clock back one hour before you retire on Saturday evening. If you forget, the sanctuary will be open for prayer and the library for reading whenever you arrive at church this Sunday.



### **Mike Bryant Prints Available for Purchase**

Look for a wonderful display, in the Friendship Center this Sunday, of two types of prints created by **Mike Bryant**. One has a high quality paper and ink and will be a limited edition, numbered and signed by the artist. It will sell for \$40. The other is the same image on different paper and will sell for \$20. Order your copies this Sunday and next, in the Friendship Center.

The original painting will be available during a silent auction coming up in November. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the Chancel Choir Tour 2010. Contact **Don Martin** for more information.

### **Preschool Holds Annual Book Fair – November 2-16**

The Central Christian Preschool is holding its annual Book Fair, Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The book fair will be open in the Preschool Wing, Monday-Thursday, 9:00-11:45 a.m., every day except Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> for Veteran's Day. Mrs. Messmore will be here Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> for all church members, who are interested in purchasing a book. **Please do not take books off the book table unless Mrs. Messmore is there to help with your purchase.** Thank you for your support of the Preschool.

### **Share the Blessings**

There is wonderful news about the **Share the Blessings** Stewardship emphasis in our church this year. On **Share the Blessings** Sunday, October 18, one hundred thirty-five members stepped forward down the center aisle and dedicated to God their plans to underwrite one-half of our church budget for 2010, over \$400,000. The question then became, "Can the other 200 families subscribe the other half of the cost of our church's mission and ministries?" In the following week an additional 33 families turned in Giving Cards. The total committed so far is \$480,026.

One more week remains for you to complete a Giving Card before we have to prepare the 2010 budget. Please do your best for your church this week.





## Central Youth

**Sunday, November 1st**  
6-7:30 p.m.

Central Youth will gather in the Youth Room for a regular meeting. We will be discussing our holiday plans and we will ask the question, "How does someone become a saint?"

**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
6-8 p.m.

### Ninth Annual Indoor Golf Tournament

Central Youth grades 3-5 and 9-12 are invited to our Ninth Annual Indoor Golf Tournament. A special course will be designed especially for our junior golfers. Bring a friend!



### Summit Informational Meeting

Youth registered for Summit 2009, will meet for a brief instructional meeting on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon. We will cover our travel schedule and the list of items needed for the event. Please, let Pastor Robert know if you are unable to attend.

## Charles's Column

All year our congregation has been celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1834 by Elder Joseph Hostetler. North American Disciples of Christ are celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Elder Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address which set forth cardinal precepts of the "American reformation" in 1809: "The church on earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one."

But around the world our Presbyterian sisters and brothers are celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Calvin, born July 10, 1509 in Noyon, France. Since all the significant founders of our denomination were Presbyterian clergy and Calvin is the father of Presbyterianism, Calvin's anniversary is significant to us.

John Calvin was perhaps second only to Martin Luther as the most influential thinker and writer of the Protestant Reformation in the Sixteenth Century. John Calvin's systematic theology, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, is foundational to reformed thought in Christianity. John Calvin insisted on the absolute sovereignty of God and taught that human salvation is from start to finish entirely God's doing. Human effort and endeavor are considered irrelevant to God's salvation of those whom God has elected to save. Humanity can do absolutely nothing to save itself other than depending entirely and absolutely on the grace of God, granted as a gift: unearned, unmerited, utterly amazing. God saves whom God will save, period. Humans can do nothing to influence God's election.

And so without God's election, humanity continues in a totally depraved, totally hopeless condition. We have erred and strayed from God's ways, and there is no health in us, no inherent virtue, no self-attained merit, and we have been sinners from birth.

We Disciples, while greatly dependent on John Calvin's theology, have erred and strayed from Calvin's ways. Disciples have insisted that God freely offers salvation to all humanity through Jesus Christ, and human beings can claim that salvation for ourselves by faith and obedience. We think God gives us that freedom and that free-will choice to follow Christ as his disciples. We also think that human beings, made in the image of God, are not totally evil from birth, and that people are basically good, made and declared good by God.

Many facets of contemporary life give me greater respect for Calvin's position: computer viruses and worms, e-mail spam, torture, abuse of children and animals, et al. My idealistic and sunny Disciples view of humanity sometimes seems shaky next to Calvin's insistence that humanity is inherently evil, brutish, and hopeless. I have to wonder if perhaps Calvin was right and we are mistaken.

*Charles Watkins*

## Fellowship Sunday is November 15

It's time to reserve your place at this month's Fellowship Sunday lunch! On November 15 we will celebrate with our traditional Thanksgiving potluck in the Great Hall following second service. Please bring a side dish to share, and Fellowship Department will provide the turkey and dressing.

To make your reservation, write "Fellowship" next to your name on the friendship pad on Sunday, November 1 or November 8, or call the church office, 428-4336. Please make your reservation promptly, so we can be sure to have a place set for you.

## News From the Pews.....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Jean Maggioncalda** and family following the October 26<sup>th</sup> death of her sister, *Barbara Simmons*.

## Mission Trip to Slidell, Louisiana - March 14-20, 2010

Plans are gearing up for our Mission trip to Slidell, Louisiana next spring, March 14-20. These dates coincide with spring break at Millikin University. During our week in Louisiana, we will be helping to blitz build a community center at First Christian Church, continuing work that will begin in February. Susan Lasalle, pastor at First Christian in Slidell writes, "We see the new building as an extension of the rebuilding efforts here in our community post-Katrina to be a balm of healing and a beacon of hope in our community. The purpose of the building is to expand our opportunities for reaching out to our changed community. We hope to utilize the space for opportunities such as ESL and parenting classes, hosting seminars about issues pertinent to our community, provide necessary meeting space for non-profit groups, ministry to the elderly and a host of other needs. The possibilities are endless." If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity, please contact **Pastor Gretchen**, 428-4336 or [gbarron@cccdisciples.org](mailto:gbarron@cccdisciples.org)). A planning and orientation meeting will be scheduled in November.

## Note of Thanks Received

Please accept our thanks and appreciation for all the cards, gifts, visits, thoughts and prayers during this time of grief over the death of Chuck, our only son, husband, and father.

**The Browns - Charlie, Norma, Faith, & Matthew**

## Can You Help?

Two of our faithful volunteers will be gone January and February. Once a week, they pick up all the Friendship Pew Pads, in the sanctuary and balcony, and make sure no signed sheets were left behind. They also make sure each pad has a pencil and is well supplied with sign in sheets and then stack the pads on the small counter next to the PA cabinet. They check the pew pockets for the visitors' tags, pledge cards, brochures, etc. This job takes 45 minutes to 1 hour with two helpers, and can be done any day, Monday through Thursday.

If you are willing to help out one or both months, please call the church office at 428-4336.

## Central's Twitter Account and Pastor's Blog

Pastor Robert's new weekly blog with reflections and conversations on faith may be found at: <http://kairosaquarian.blogspot.com> Check it out! Central has a Facebook page and a Twitter Account which may be followed at: <http://twitter.com/cccdccatur>



## Sunday, November 1, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Daniel Hinze,

Saxophone

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Marilyn Ward, Piano

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

9:30-Fully Devoted Study, Room 212

9:30-Jubilee! Rehearsal

1:30-Habitat Meeting, Disciple Room

6:00-Youth Group

## Monday (2)

3:00-Fully Devoted Study, Disciple Room

5:00-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes

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

## Tuesday (3)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study

11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room

6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, Room 207

6:30-LTQ Class, Great Hall

## Wednesday (4)

12:00-Central Singers

2:00-Acts Bible Study, Disciple Room

5:15-175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force, Disciple Room

5:45-Study Groups Dinner, Great Hall

6:30-Study Groups, Welcome Center & Parlor

## Thursday (5)

10:00-Alanon, Room 212

10:15-1:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room

6:00-Chancel Bells

6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, Room 207

7:00-Chancel Choir

## Counting On You

### October 25

Worship Attendance ..... 247

Sunday School Attendance ..... 48

**Serving Schedule—November 1, 2009**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Robert Garrett, Cindy Soebbing

**Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:**

Lois Whitaker & Dick Cain

**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 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 - Al & Chris Fagin, Dean & Janet Gray

10:45 - Jim & Lois Whitaker, Andy & Theresa Fulk

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Al & Chris Fagin

**Acolytes:**

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Andrew Otis

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

Carroll & Doris Little, Connie Ogden, Jan Patrick, Hazel Perry

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

**November 4 Visitor Mailing Crew:** Joanne Gustin

**West Entrance Hosts:**

Nov. 2 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Nov. 3 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Nov. 4 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith  
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Nov. 5 9:00-12:30 - Carole Songer  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Nov. 6 9:00-12:30 - Mary Kincaid  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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**HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG**  
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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 Latschaw ..... Parish Nurse Coordinator  
Katie Beal ..... Childcare Coordinator  
Sean Beal ..... Childcare Provider  
Shelly Messmore ..... Preschool Director  
Trudy Garland, Regina Rhodes ..... Preschool Teachers  
Wendy Jalley, Janet Langston ..... Preschool Teachers  
Jennifer Van Dyke ..... Preschool Teacher  
Kay Villarreal, Robin White ..... Preschool Teachers  
David Flanders ..... Caretaker Supervisor  
Dean Hadden ..... Caretaker  
Crystal Thicksten ..... Caretaker  
Charles Wallace ..... Caretaker

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