



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, November 18, 2009

No. 46

Choir Silent Auction Final Sunday!

Last Sunday, thanks to many of you, the choir fundraiser got off to a good start. We invite those of you that have not had a chance to bid to stop by the parlor this Sunday and bid on your favorite item. We are grateful for your enthusiastic support assisting the choir to share their gifts of music with congregations in Canada.

Lasagna Take-Out Dinner – Tired of Turkey?

The Women's Ministry Planning Task Force has a deal for you — a take-out Lasagna dinner on Sunday, December 6th! We'll do the cooking and you get to take your lunch home with you after the worship service – lasagna, bread sticks and salad! Sounds delicious, doesn't it? Get your tickets Sunday in the Friendship Center or call the church office. Tickets cost \$8 each and all proceeds go towards women's ministry, retreats and scholarships for Central women. Tired of turkey? Try lasagna on December 6th!

A Spirit of Christmas Story

I personally want to thank you for being willing to be an encouraging light to the impoverished families of Decatur. What you do NEVER goes unnoticed and I am grateful for each of you. The families that we deal with literally become family because we are constantly in their homes, trying to mend brokenness and despair, and bring hope and practical resources to otherwise destructive circumstances. We work with children and families who live in dangerous situations, who are being neglected, who have been sexually abused by their parents, family, or close friends, who often run away from their homes, hoping to find a sense of peace, but often end up on the streets, and are exposed to situations beyond their control. Every day is a nightmare for some of these children. Normal is dysfunction.

The only hope and joy that these families have to look forward to is the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Some families don't have any hope or resources until they receive Thanksgiving food baskets or Christmas gifts from people like you. There is no other blessing than knowing that because of your contributions and love, you have made someone's house become a home on Christmas Day. You have made what a child felt would be another day of nightmares and fear, become a dream come true. You all are people, who show compassion and humility, grace and mercy; who are willing to give of themselves, when children don't have anyone else. So, I thank you. The children of Webster-Cantrell Hall thank you. Without you and your giving, it would be almost impossible for children to have a future or at least hope for a better future.

-Camille - Case Worker Webster-Cantrell Hall

Central's Spirit of Christmas ministry of giving and compassion is under way with 36 names remaining for adoption. All gifts should be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged by Sunday, December 6th.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**An Eye for an Eye
Makes the
Whole World Blind**

Text: John 18:33-37

Gretchen Barron

Baby Blessing Service Scheduled

A Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents service has been scheduled for Sunday, December 6th during both services. If you wish to have your infant or child included in the service, please contact the church office (428-4336) as soon as possible.

Congregational Meeting - Dec. 6

The congregation will meet on Sunday, December 6, at 11:55 a.m. in the Great Hall to vote on the proposed 2010 budget. Copies of the proposed budget will be available on the counter in the Friendship Center next to the church office. All members are invited to attend and vote on the budget.

Organ Concert This Sunday

Peter K. Miller, Associate Professor of Music at Indiana Wesleyan will present an organ recital this Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church at West Main and North Fairview. This is Part II of a two-part series, featuring organ masterworks from 1750 to the present. The recital is co-sponsored by Westminster and the Sigma Alpha Iota Decatur Alumnae Chapter. A free-will offering will be received at the recital. Professor Miller will be guest organist at Central this Sunday morning at both services.



Central Youth

**Friday, November 20-
Sunday, November 22
Summit 2009
in Carlinville, IL**

**Joshua Bushey, Avery
Martin, David Martin &
Brittney Munos** will attend
Summit along with **Pastor
Robert and Janet Lyman**.
Pray for our Summit partici-
pants to have a great experi-
ence with God and our CCIW
friends!

**Sunday, November 22nd
Thanksgiving Basket
Project
3:45-5:30 p.m.**

Meet at Central at 3:45
p.m. and help assemble
Thanksgiving Baskets for
people right here in Macon
County. This year the
project will provide 4000
baskets!



**Sunday, November 29th
2-5 p.m.
Christmas Tree Shopping
& Decorating**

Central Youth will travel
to a local Christmas Tree
Farm to choose our tree for
the Main Entrance and
return to decorate the
Great Hall and Parlor Christ-
mas Trees.

Gretchen's Gleanings

In November, congregations throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will collect our annual Thanksgiving Offering. This offering directly benefits our 14 colleges and universities, and our 7 seminaries, theological foundations and divinity houses.

As a graduate of two of these educational institutions, Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, I can tell you from personal experience how crucial this financial assistance is to students, probably even more so in today's financial climate than in the "good old days" when I was in school.

As a "non-traditional" student, entering college at the ripe-old age of 26, I had a lot to consider as I gave up my full time job as a surgical technologist to pursue full-time education and the dream of a future in ministry. I wasn't worried about the academic challenges that faced me. I knew that with hard work and diligent study, I would do fine academically. I wasn't worried about "fitting in" with the younger crowd at college. As someone who makes friends easily and gets along with almost everyone, I didn't spend many anxious moments worrying about this. It was difficult to move away from my home and family and friends, but I didn't worry and stew over it either. The one area that did cause me real concern, and the area that I knew would be my greatest challenge was financial. How in the world did I think I was going to pay for tuition, books, and living expenses once I quit my job to begin this new journey toward ministry?

Well, it wasn't easy and there were many stressful and anxious times wondering where the money would come from, but as I look back upon those times, I can say, in retrospect, that my needs were always met. I received generous scholarships for tuition and books and even stipends to help with living expenses during my seven-year adventure as a theological student. Provided in part by special offerings, like the Thanksgiving Offering, and the generosity of individuals and churches, my needs were met. For me, it was a leap of faith to pursue undergraduate and graduate education, made possible by the faithful response and generosity of others. And it's not just students pursuing theological education that benefit from such generosity. The gifts that we give through the Thanksgiving offering benefit, both directly and indirectly, all Disciple students at these educational institutions.

At a time when support for education seems to be under attack, Disciples remain committed to the need for, and value of, our higher education institutions. And, as a student who has been there and done that, I can't tell you what that kind of support means to a young (or not-so-young) student out there trying to do their best. I can honestly say, I would not have made it through those years of preparation, and would not be at Central sharing with you in ministry, without the support and encouragement of congregations like ours that invested in my future and in the future of others like me. Once again this Sunday, we will have an opportunity to give to the Thanksgiving Offering and to invest in the future leadership of our church and our world. I invite you to give prayerful thought to your gift to the Thanksgiving Special Offering.

With gratitude — *Gretchen*



Hanging of the Greens - November 29

Sunday, November 29, there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for Hanging of the Greens.

News From the Pews.....

Congratulations to **Cris & Jessica Boline** of Anaheim, California on the November 7th birth of their daughter, **Jared Paige**. Proud grandparents are **John & Stacey Boline** and great-grandmother is **Louise Boline**.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Margaret Friend**, following her death on November 13.

Note of Thanks Received

“Thank You” to all for your prayers while I was in Decatur Memorial Hospital and now recovering. Things are going just fine.

Harold King

Alternative Gift Giving Coming Soon

The Christian Action and Community Service Department invites you to participate in the Alternative Gift Giving program for 2009. This year you may purchase alternative gifts in honor of your loved ones from Baby Talk, ChristCare Stitchers, DOVE, Good Samaritan Inn, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, and the Oasis Day Center for the homeless.

Stop by the Alternative Gift Market near the West Entrance on Sundays, December 6th & 13th; make a donation in someone’s name to one of our seven organizations; and we will provide you with a certificate or card to send to your loved one telling them of the wonderful gift you have made in their honor for the holidays. Plan now to make Alternative Gift Giving a part of your Christmas experience in 2009.

Kroger Cares Cards for Local Mission Partners

As you prepare for the holidays and gift giving season we wish to remind you that you may purchase Kroger Cares Cards, with cash or check made payable to Central Christian, from the church office. The cards are available in \$10 amounts and may be reloaded with funds up to \$500 when you visit a Kroger store locally or nationwide.

Use the card to pay for your purchases at your local Kroger store. Reload the card at your Kroger store with up to \$500 each refill. Reloads may be made at the Customer Service Counter. Continue to use/refill the card and support Central’s local mission partners! The cards may also be given away as gifts. Be sure to tell the recipient that the card is refillable and will support ministries important to your church. CACS receives 3% of all card purchases and “reloads” and has already received well over \$2000 to fund our 2009 weekend meals at Good Samaritan Inn, etc. Your gift card purchase cannot be credited on your annual giving record for tax purposes.

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

Plans are gearing up for our Mission Trip to Slidell, Louisiana next spring, March 14-20th. 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. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, please contact **Pastor Gretchen** for more information (428-4336 or gbarron@cccdisciples.org). An organizational meeting will be held soon.



Sunday, November 22, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Brass Quintet

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Brass;
Organ

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

9:30-Jubilee! Rehearsal

3:45-5:00-Youth Thanksgiving Basket
Project

Monday (23)

5:00-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes

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

6:30-LTQ, 290

Tuesday (24)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors’ Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor’s Study

7:00-Chancel Choir

Wednesday (25)

10:30-Preschool Thanksgiving,
Great Hall

1:15-Preschool Thanksgiving,
Great Hall

Thursday (26) Thanksgiving Day

Church & Office Closed

Friday (27)

Church & Office Closed



THANKSGIVING

Counting On You

November 15

Worship Attendance	278
Sunday School Attendance	50

Serving Schedule—November 22, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Julie Martin, Mary Jane Oliver

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Becky Johnston

Decatur Memorial: Bruce Campbell

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 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Brenda Tankersley, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston, Betty Scott, Dave Scott

10:45 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

Greeters:

8:15 - Ed & Joy Adams, Bruce & Liz Campbell

10:45 - Dale & Judy Ford, Larry & Betty Chapman

Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Dean & Janet Gray

Preparation of Communion: Carole Holbrook, Ann Harshman,
Kim Miller, Yvonne Purcell, Nancy Taylor

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

November 25 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Ellen Sheffer

West Entrance Hosts:

Nov. 23 9:00-12:30 - Florence Bolin
12:30-4:00 - Betty Scott

Nov. 24 9:00-12:30 - Sandy Garver
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Nov. 25 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Nov. 26 **Thanksgiving Day**
Church & Office Closed

Nov. 27 Church & Office Closed

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
Valerie Rozanski Administrative Assistant
Pat Beals Administrative Assistant
Jane Latschaw Parish Nurse Coordinator
Katie Beal Childcare Coordinator
Joanne Frady, Sean Beal Childcare Providers
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

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.



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

