



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, December 23, 2009

No. 51



*A Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from the Staff of
Central Christian Church*

Gretchen Barron
Katie Beal
Sean Beal
Pat Beals
Robert Bushey
Kevin Chunko
David Flanders
Trudy Garland
Dean Hadden
Wendy Jalley
Janet Langston

Don Martin
Shelly Messmore
Regina Rhodes
Valerie Rozanski
Crystal Thicksten
Jennifer Van Dyke
Kay Villarreal
Charles Wallace
Charles Watkins
Jim Whitaker
Robin White



Central folks enjoy the fellowship of Come Home for Christmas!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

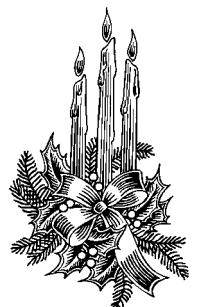
New Beginnings

Text: Colossians 3:12-17

Charles Watkins

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Tonight

Our congregation will worship God and rejoice at the birth of the Messiah on December 24 at 7:30 p.m. in a service of candlelight and communion. To conclude the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of our congregation, 175 votive luminaria will greet you at the west entrance on Christmas Eve. All believers of every Christian tradition and denomination are welcome to come forward for communion at Central. Communion will include an individual piece of bread handed to each communicant and individual cups (as on Sunday morning) following the "Best Practices" guidelines of the National Council of Churches to limit exposure to the H1N1 flu virus.



**Candlelight
Service**

Installation of Officers This Sunday

Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Honorary Officers will be installed in their offices at each service on Sunday December 27. All those elected in September are urged to attend and enter their offices as 2009 comes to a close.



Central Youth

Sunday, December 27th
Birthday Party for Jesus
during Sunday School at
9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.

Cake and Punch will be
served. Come and join us to
celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Looking Ahead...

Chi Rho (Jr High School)
Mid-Winter Retreat
January 16-17, 2010
First Christian Church
Pontiac, IL

CYF(High School)
Mid-Winter Retreat
February 19-21, 2010
Mackinaw Christian Church
Mackinaw, IL



Charles's Column

All who know me understand that beautiful music in worship is vital to my spirituality and my leadership in worship. Freudians will understand that my passion for organ, piano, strings, brass, and woodwinds in worship may be rooted in my adolescent rebellion against the traditions of my ancestors which regarded all such musical innovations as "instruments of the devil." Those analysts see Central's acquisition of a Steinway B grand piano and a pipe organ doubled in size during my tenure in Decatur as sure signs of my personal passions and spiritual compulsions. But unashamed, I am filled with joy every Sunday in the praise of God with marvelous music lifted high by glorious musical instruments.

Still, there is the matter of someone to play these amazing instruments. Volunteer accompanists on the Steinway including **Marilyn Ward, Marilyn Mertz, John Baird, Carol Graham**, et al. have delighted me week after week and supported choral voices in holy praise. And for twelve years, **Leslie Peart** satisfied my yearning to hear the voice of God in the breath/wind of the pipe organ. Now, just two months after Les announced his retirement to the Texas Gulf Coast, Central has a new organist.

He is **Kevin Michael Chunko**, a doctoral candidate in organ performance at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Kevin has excellent credentials as an organist including degrees in organ performance from Millikin University (Bachelor of Music) and Western Illinois University (Master of Music). He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (my fraternity brother), the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. He has worked for Berghaus Organ Company as a voicer, and he has played at Grace United Methodist Church in Decatur and St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Elmhurst as well as other congregations. He's been pianist and trombonist for the Decatur Park Singers. His references are enthusiastic, and his audition for our congregation's Organist Search Committee was splendid. He begins his new position at Central on January 1.



I know you have been tremendously impressed by our guest organists in late November and all of December: **Beth Slate** and **Peter K. Miller**. I love hearing them play as you do, but because of their full-time employment elsewhere they are not available to accompany the choir at Thursday evening practice or for most mid-week funerals. We are hugely grateful to them for leading us through the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas, and we intend to call on them regularly for help as their schedules allow. As the "Chunko Era" at Central begins, we thank the members of the Search Committee: **Carol Graham**, Chair; **Dan Brintlinger, Bruce Campbell** (Chair of the Board of Elders), **Don Martin, Marilyn Mertz, Shirley Swarthout** (representing the Personnel Department), and **Rebecca Van Meter**. Welcome Kevin Chunko on January 3!

Charles Watkins

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Phyllis & Carl Morris** and family following the December 16th death of her sister, *Janet Arnold* of North Carolina.....to the family and friends of **Marianna Holl**, following her death on December 20th.....to **Sue & Dean Simcox** and family following the December 21st death of Sue's brother, *Clarence Woolbright* of Centralia, Illinois.....to **Max & Evelyn Sperry** and **Mike Sperry** and family following the December 21st death of Max's brother and Mike's father, *Claude L. Sperry* of Blue Mound.



Sunday, December 27, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Peter Miller, Organ
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
9:30-Birthday Party for Jesus,
Great Hall

Monday (28)

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

Tuesday (29)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study

Thursday (31)

10:00-Alanon, 212

Friday (January 1, 2010)

Church & Office Closed

Festival of Church Choirs
Kirkland Fine Arts Center
Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters
Tickets are \$10.00 and \$8.00 (age 65 and up)
Mark your calendars for this dynamic event.

Thank You Note Received

We want to express our appreciation to the Dorcas group for including us in their soup day. It was a delicious lunch that we enjoyed very much. It would take lots of baskets to hold all the kindness you have given us, especially the past several years. We hear your prayers and feel your love. We love you and are grateful to be a part of this church family.

Dean & Sue Simcox



Central Preschoolers recently created a Christmas Video singing *Wish You a Merry Christmas* and *Jingle Bells*. The videos are posted on the Central Christian Church Decatur IL Facebook Page and the Central Christian Preschool Family Facebook Group.

Counting On You

December 20

Worship Attendance 368
Sunday School Attendance 20

Central's Pictorial Directories Have Arrived!

The long-awaited pictorial directories are here! If you had your picture taken for the directory, stop by the table in the Friendship Center this Sunday to get yours. You can also pick up the directories at the church office, Monday through Friday.

If you did not get your picture taken for the directory, but would like to have one, additional copies can be purchased for \$10 each.

Serving Schedule—December 27, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Bruce Campbell, John Graham

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Elder Jody Featherstun

Decatur Memorial: Elder Kevin Miller

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 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 - *Help Needed*

10:45 - Warren & Azalee Berner, Ron & Jan Dobbs

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Jim & Pru Rogers

Preparation of Communion:

Barbara Beyer, Karen Baird, Donna Dash, Gerri & Mike Munos

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

West Entrance Hosts:

Dec. 28 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Dec. 29 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Dec. 30 9:00-12:30 - Betty Scott
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 **New Year's Day**
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
Kevin Chunko Organist
Valerie Rozanski Administrative Assistant
Pat Beals Administrative Assistant
Jane Latshaw 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

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