



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, December 30, 2009

No. 52

**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.**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2010
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Now in Flesh Appearing**

Text: John 1:1-5, 9-14
Charles Watkins

Last Shot at the Deficit

The church has forged ahead in mission and ministry for an entire year, and the costs of being the church have outstripped income. It's not a huge deficit this year, and it's quite within our capability to wipe it off the books and complete 2009 "in the black" just as we did in 2006 and 2007. It happens only through your own generous effort. Please help if you can.

Thank You for Sharing Christmas With Others!

I just wanted to THANK YOU once again for all the wonderful gifts! We may need to stock up on tissues next year before we receive the delivery... We had parents and grandparents here to pick up and crying all day! One grandmother came to pick up the gifts for the little girls who received one of the bikes and she just started crying and crying! EVERYONE who received gifts was SOOOO thankful and wanted us to make sure their appreciation was relayed to each and every one of you!

May you be Blessed!
Holly Newbon, Director of Marketing
Webster-Cantrell Hall

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.

Alternative Giving Success!

Nearly \$2200 was given through alternative gifts for our local human service agencies and Heifer International. Your gifts will bring joy and hope into the hearts of many persons throughout the Decatur area and beyond. Thank you to all who participated in this special outreach tradition.





Central Youth

**Sunday, January 3rd
Annual Epiphany Games
6-8 p.m.
Grades 6-12**

Come see what will be revealed this year!

Sunday, January 10th
Central Youth will meet 6-8 p.m. Bring your calendars! We will be making plans for Spring and Summer 2010!

CCIW Mid-Winter Retreats

The theme for this year's retreats is J.U.S.T.I.C.E. (Jesus Using Students to Impact Communities Everywhere). Registration forms and Information are now on the regional website. Deadline for registration is January 6th.

**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

Several months back I read about some research that indicates each of us thinks of ourselves as a certain age which is different from our chronological age. I immediately validated the research in my own case. I think of myself as being sixteen years old. So you can just imagine how jolting it is for me to look into the mirror each morning to shave this elderly face, resembling in a frightening way my father's face.

You can also imagine how shocked I was to learn that Central wanted to recognize the fortieth anniversary of my ordination on December 28, 1969, in Lubbock, Texas. How can a person of my age have completed college and seminary to be ordained four decades ago?

One dear soul commented to me Sunday morning that it probably doesn't feel like I've been a minister for forty years. And without thinking, I truthfully responded, "Oh, I feel as if I've been doing this for seventy-five years." I'm out of step with what other codgers frequently say. I have heard seniors looking back over long careers who say, "I have no regrets, and I wouldn't change a thing." That's not me. I have tons of regrets, and I would change many, many things about my life and ministry. I have probably been wrong more often than I have been right.

But one of the aspects of being a minister that I have appreciated is that the role always challenges the person playing it to be better than I am. I know that some people have jobs that are always pulling them down, always tempting them to take the dishonest short cut or the easy deception to close a deal or win a contract. But ministry always pulls a person upward to be better, more honest, more faithful, more attentive, more involved than one may want to be.

In the presentation on Sunday, I appreciated the recognition that what I am involved in is not "my" ministry. I have spent these forty years participating in the ministry of Jesus Christ and of Christ's church. Others who serve Central on the staff are partners with me in Jesus's ministry, and when I am gone, there will be another who stands in for Jesus, not in my place, but in Jesus's place. And when I meet Jesus face to face, I will confess that I wish I had done better for him and that I had done better for you. Then again, I haven't done so badly for a sixteen-year-old.

Charles Watkins

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

Plans are gearing up for our Mission Trip to Slidell, Louisiana this spring, March 14-20. 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.

A planning / participants meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13 at 6 p.m. If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity, please contact **Pastor Gretchen** for more information (call 428-4336 or email her at gbarron@cccdisciples.org).



News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Tim & Karyn Webb** following the December 23rd death of their son, *Cole Thomas Webb*, who was born on November 2nd. Sympathy also to grandparents, **C. Robert & Anne Webb** and great-grandparents, **Robert & Wanda Webb**.....to **Beverly & Bob Dondeville** and family following the death of Bev's mother, *Juanita L. Clark* on December 24.....and to **Sue Simcox** and family following the death of *H. Dean Simcox* on Wednesday morning, December 30.



Offering Envelopes on Their Way to You for 2010

Central asks: Why is the church sending me offering envelopes this week?

Answer: Contributors who use numbered envelopes save so much volunteer time in processing church receipts. Using your numbered envelopes is really a kindness to your fellow church members who process all contributions to Central. Marking on your envelopes how you want your gifts used takes all the guess work out of the process and saves both time and phone calls.

Central asks: But you send me an envelope for every week, and I make my gifts to the church monthly or quarterly. Why?

Answer: It costs very little (only 2 cents per envelope plus postage) to mail you all the envelopes, and then you have them whenever you want to use one. By closing the flap to protect your privacy, you can mail your gifts to Central at any time by adding a postage stamp. The envelope is already addressed to the church. Even if you used just one envelope all year, it would be a help for you to use that one. Keeping the envelopes near your check book may remind you that the church really needs your help.

Central asks: I still have envelopes from last year. Can I use them?

Answer: Please don't. Destroy all old offering envelopes. The envelopes you receive for 2010 may have a different number, and it is the use of that number in data entry that really saves the volunteers' time.

Central asks: Well, so?

Answer: Please use a numbered envelope whenever you make a gift to Central, mark on the envelope how you want your gift used (operating fund, building fund, or special designated purpose), and the church can keep an accurate record thanking you correctly for each gift all year. Please use the envelopes! And if you do not get a set of envelopes for 2010, please call the office. We have a set ready to send you!

Note of Thanks Received

My gratitude to our Pastors and church friends for all the prayers and moral support that was shown to us these past years.

We always knew that someone was praying for us, which made the long road easier.

Thank you for the family meal after Don's service and also to Dorcas Group for delivering the wonderful meal on soup day.

Rae Owens



Sunday, January 3, 2010

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Kevin Chunko, Organ
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Becky Van Meter, Alto
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
6:00-8:00-Youth Epiphany Games

Monday (4)

10:30-Elderberries Team Meeting, Volunteer Room
5:00-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes

Tuesday (5)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room

Wednesday (6)

12:00-Central Singers

Thursday (7)

10:00-Alanon, 212
10:15-1:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (9)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

December 24

Worship Attendance 289

December 27

Worship Attendance 168

Sunday School Attendance 15

IRS Deadline

Federal regulations require that the church acknowledge gifts you make to the church for 2009 only if the church actually receives them by December 31, 2009 (or at least postmarked no later than December 31.)

Gifts for 2009 received after the deadline will be credited to your Central giving record in 2010 and will still help fulfill your giving plan for this year.

Serving Schedule—January 3, 2010

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Connie Bordner, Randy Brooks

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

John Graham & Mary Jane Linton

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Christy Hanson, Dave Hanson, Sherri Hood, Larry Otis, Max Sperry

10:45 - Team 4 - Doug Soebbing, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Keith Backes, Mark Beal, Jessica Brooks, Shirley Brooks, Sue Ann Cain, Claudia Curry, Debbie Foster, Larry Foster, Jon French, Melinda Hawbaker, Bob Linton, David Miller, Katie Miller, Andrew Otis, Kevin Ann Otis, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Bruce Stoddard, Carol Stoddard, Donna Strong, Kevin Wilmot

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski

10:45 - Team 8 - Pam Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:15 - Bill & Mary Alice Rule, Bob & Wanda Webb

10:45 - Barb Tyler, John & Carol Graham

Acolyte:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Rachel Ash

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Scott & Melinda Hawbaker Family

Preparation of Communion:

Carole & Francis Songer, Jan & Ron Dobbs, Darla Otis

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

January 6 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

West Door Hosts:

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

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

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

Jan. 7 9:00-12:30 - Gail Prince
12:30-4:00 - Sally Force

Jan. 8 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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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