



The Central Visitor

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

Fellowship Sunday is March 20th

Central's Fellowship Department hosts a fellowship lunch on the third Sunday of each month. Join your Central family and friends this Sunday, March 20th for a meal and fellowship time in the Great Hall following the second service. If you haven't yet reserved your place at lunch, call the church office at 428-4336 TODAY!

Ladies Night Out – Wednesday, March 30th

Central members and friends are invited to join us on Wednesday, March 30th for Ladies Night Out at Carlos O'Kelly's! We'll gather at 6 p.m. for lively discussion, delicious food and fun fellowship! Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday!

Prayer Team Seeking New Members

Central's Prayer Team ministry is seeking new members to pray each week for Central, our community and our world. Specific prayer requests are posted on the Prayer Wall, and given to Prayer Team members to lift up in prayer throughout the week.

If you are interested, or want more information, call **Lois Whitaker**.



Disciples Women Spring Event – April 2nd

All Central women are invited to attend the Disciples Women Spring Event at Eureka College, April 2nd from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is *Purses of Opportunity – from Human Trafficking to Empowerment*. Keynote speaker is Amy Gopp, Executive Direction of Week of Compassion. Come for the latest information on Week of Compassion ministry, a day of fellowship, information on study resources, a "Home Industry" display of products, and a service project. Registration is \$30 (by March 22nd) which includes lunch and handouts. Please bring a used (but good condition) purse to donate for low-income women who are beginning new jobs. Let **Pastor Gretchen** know if you would like to ride in the church bus. Registration forms are available in the Friendship Center.



College Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for the **Walter & Inabell Kirby Scholarship**, the **Roy O. & Rachel Schilling Scholarship**, and the **Cocoa "Coke" & Lilabelle Traylor Scholarship** are available at the church office and are due back by **May 2nd**. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need, however, participation in church, school, and community activities are also considered.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Getting to Real

Text: Joshua 1:1-9; Acts 2:14, 32-39
Herb Knudsen



Piano and Organ Concert

March 25, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Randy Frieling, Piano and Herb Buffington, Organ

Pianist **Randy Frieling** is Music Director and Organist at Central Christian Church, Anderson, IN, pianist for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis and a Professor of Music and University Organist at Anderson University. Frieling has performed throughout the United States and Europe as a soloist and accompanist.

Organist **Herb Buffington** is Organist and Assistant Choirmaster at the Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta, GA. He has had these responsibilities for fifteen years. Prior to this he held a similar position at the Decatur Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA.

Buffington is nationally recognized for his refined ability as an improvisator. His organ improvisations and compositions have been featured on Minnesota Public Radio's "Performance Today" and American Public Media's "Pipedreams."

Both are active members and leaders in the Association of Disciples Musicians, a distinction they share with our organist, **Dee Dee Gain**.

Mark your calendars and invite your friends to hear this very entertaining combined musical treat.

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Youth Activities Calendar

March 19, 11:00 a.m.
Serving at Good
Samaritan Inn



April 3
Rock Climbing
in Bloomington, IL

Plans are being made for a
trip to Nashville
to attend
General Assembly
July 9-13.

Summer Camp
Information
is available.
Contact Don Martin



Called to be disciples of Christ

Last week's *Time* magazine had an interesting focus by lead columnists Fared Zakaria and David von Drehle. The theme was on economic growth/decline, shifting global resources, and America's changing place on the global stage. In this new arena, the questions raised were about the status of "The American Dream" relative to such things as education, technology, health, life expectancy, work, job satisfaction, food and shelter. The truth is, compared to other developed nations, we are no longer ranked # 1 in all those categories; on many we are surprisingly far down the list. The world is changing, often for the better, but are we ready for it? A new role and/or different dream?

It's hard to be Number One – getting there, being there, staying there. While it is wonderful to be prosperous, it also comes at some expense. I have never been one to believe in wasteful nor unmonitored, relentless growth. At some point you burn out your resources and capacity, unless you pace yourself responsibly. It is also true making the necessary changes to sustain viability, growth, and prosperity never come without some important conversational processing and transitional pain. Many will stand on the sidelines complaining, taking pot-shots, pointing fingers at others, stirring up anxiety. The authors' observations were interesting and helpful. I commend it to your reading.

Because, at the same level, we wrestle with what constitutes health, vitality, and success in the church and in our local community. One such measurement is numerical; such as, the annual report to the denomination we just completed. Such numbers are both causes for celebration and concern. Central easily remains in the 100 largest congregations of the some 3,600 in the denomination – but clearly we are not as large as we were ten years ago, much less twenty or thirty. Most churches are not. Comparatively, we are also adding fewer people to our rolls than back then; in fact, we lost more last year to death and moves to other communities than we gained [*11 new households; 28 lost (23 by death)*]. We are an older membership congregation and that is part of our reality. We reported a participating membership of 514 persons and an average worship attendance of 277. Among the issues our Interim Steering Committees are considering include how CCC might become more magnetic to others, the role and expectations of our staff (as we transition through three changes in clergy staff positions), and clarifying our Vision and Mission Statements for the next decade to guide our mission and ministry as well as help define the kind of new leader we need. ***For that, the current Congregational Survey is an important input we need from all members and friends by March 27th.*** If you have not filled out a survey, you can pick one up in the church office. A series of large group meetings will be held in April to further discuss these findings with you.

The Annual Report also shows a total income for last year of \$964,118 [\$707,672 as local operational receipts; \$256,446 as local capital receipts]. And, the truly amazing number was \$188,371 ... 20% of our total income was shared by Central for outreach ministries and mission work! You are a generous people blessing many people in need and extending the work of Christ in the world. ***Thank you! THANK YOU!!***

I also celebrate the increasing number of volunteers now participating in the renewed ministries of extending care and nurture to members as well as the many new volunteers helping in outreach ministries through our Emergency Assistance Fund. So how is growth and declined truly measured? Versus what was? Versus changes and transformation happening now? Versus dreams and hopes for the future? Good questions for conversations among us. I am certainly one with hope in this time and place for Central Christian Church.

-Herb Knudsen

News From the Pews....

Proud Grandma **Mary Lynn Feltes & Mimi Kim** announce the March 9th birth of grandson, **Charles-Jeffry Byron Robert**. Parents are **Daniel Feltes & Katie Musick**.....and congratulations to **Nick & Sally (Quigg) McLemore** on the March 13th birth of their daughter, **Joslin Kay**. Grandparents are **Claudia & Leo Quigg**; great-grandparents are **Bill & Claudine Nichols**.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Kathy Thornton** and family following the March 13th death of Kathy's father, **Woodrow Thornton**.

Attention Deacons!

If you have not mailed your diaconate dues, please send your check (made payable to *Central Christian Diaconate*) to **Nancy McAfee**, 2505 W. Ash, Decatur, IL 62526. Your \$5 contribution (per deacon) helps support the reception and luncheon provided for Central's Senior Members on May 7.

Central Christian Preschool Announcements

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is Monday, March 21-Thursday March 24, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The Preschool is holding a Spring Book Fair, Monday, March 28-April 4. Monday-Thursday the book fair will be open 9:00-11:45 a.m. Mrs. Messmore will be in the preschool wing on Sunday, April 3 for all church members interested in purchasing a book. Please do not take books off the book table unless Mrs. Messmore is there to assist with the purchase. Thank you for your support of the Preschool.

The Preschool would love to have church members help in the classrooms. If you love working with children and seeing them grow and learn, please sign up Sunday, April 3. **Mary Jane Oliver** and **Suzie Miller** will be at the sign-up table in the Friendship Center. Mrs. Messmore will be in the preschool wing if you have any questions. Hope to see you next year.



Shelly Messmore, Preschool Director

Prayer Points From Central's Prayer Team Members

- ▶ In prayer I can better see my concerns when laying them before God. God sheds new light on my life.
- ▶ Prayer is a connection between God and me and other people.

Have you visited the Prayer Wall Lately?

Leave your Prayer requests on the wall and our Prayer Team will lift them up in prayer during the coming week. The prayer wall is located in the Church Library, just north of the Narthex and Sanctuary.

Spring Cleanup Note of Thanks

Thanks to those who assisted with the cleanup on Friday. The West Entrance looks great!

Sally Force



Sunday, March 20, 2011

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Jason Zimmerman,
Cello
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Jason
Zimmerman, Cello
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr
9:30-Sunday School
12:00-Fellowship Sunday Meal,
Great Hall
2:00-Bob Dial Organ Recital for
Sigma Alpha Iota, Sanctuary

Monday (21)

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

Tuesday (22)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Unbinding Your Soul, Disciple
Room
5:30-Personnel Dept., Disciple Room
7:00-Dorcas, home of Mary Jane Linton

Wednesday (23)

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting
12:00-Central Singers

Thursday (24)

10:00-Alanon, 212
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (25)

7:30-Frieling/Buffington Piano/Organ
Concert, Sanctuary

Sunday (27)

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr
9:30-Sunday School

Counting On You

March 13

Worship Attendance 217
Sunday School Attendance 56



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID



Serving Schedule—March 20, 2011

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Bob Smith, John Graham

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, Sue Simcox

10:45 - Team 2 - Richard Ward, Capt., Cathy Ash, Jim Ash, Neil Baird, Azalee Berner, Warren Berner, Dale Ford, Judy Ford, Erik Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Daniel Hinze, Ron Oliver, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Claudia Quigg, Tom Spry, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Kathy Thornton, Lea West

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Connie Schabowski, Sally Force, Jo Carter, Greg Carter

10:45 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Mark Kincaid, Barb Tyler, Bob Reed, Diane Reed

Greeters:

8:15 - Al & Chris Fagin, Dean & Janet Gray

10:45 - Jon & Jane French, Glen & Jody Featherstun

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Spencer Hawbaker

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Fellowship Coffee Host: Sally Force

Preparation of Communion:

Becky & John Flanders, Pamela Bednar, David Flanders, Joan Stewart

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

March 23 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Betty McKown, Ellen Sheffer, Marilyn Ward

West Entrance Door Hosts:

Mar. 21 9:00-12:30 - Jim & Prudence Rogers

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Mar. 22 9:00-12:30 - Dee Hill

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Mar. 23 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Mar. 24 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Mar. 25 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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*

Herb Knudsen.....	Transitional Senior Pastor
Robert Bushey.....	Transitional Associate Minister
Gretchen Barron.....	Pastor for Evangelism and Membership
C. William Nichols.....	Senior Minister Emeritus
Don Martin.....	Minister of Music
Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain	Organist
Hannah Fitch	Youth Program Intern
Valerie Rozanski.....	Administrative Secretary
Pat Beals.....	Administrative Assistant
Jane Latshaw.....	Parish Nurse Coordinator
Debra Fulk.....	Childcare Coordinator
Sean Beal, Avery Martin.....	Childcare Providers
Shelly Messmore.....	Preschool Director
Trudy Garland, Regina Rhodes	Preschool Teachers
Janet Langston, Jessica Gremo.....	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.