

The Central Visitor

A weekly visitor to your home bringing you news from Central Christian Church
Our mission ... Sharing Christ,
Changing Lives, Delivering Hope

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Decatur, Illinois, January 29, 2020

No. 4



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Join us for an evening of storytelling

On Monday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m., in the Connection Café, we will gather for an evening of storytelling. A podium and microphone will be set up in one corner and extra chairs brought in. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. We will have a roster of storytellers from our congregation telling "5 minute stories" from their lives on the theme: **"stepped out of my comfort zone when..."** The stories will speak to how we are changed by taking a risk and doing something out of the ordinary. One of our core values at Central is to "Connect with One Another." Come out and join us on February 10, and you're sure to learn more about others – and likely yourself – through a great evening of storytelling!

3D February Meal

The 3D program and meal on February 12th will have a Valentine theme. Menu: Lasagna, pear-apple salad, bread sticks, and red velvet cupcakes, made with L-O-V-E. Our program and entertainment will begin at 11:30 AM; lunch will follow at noon. Please call or email the church office (217-428-4336 or central@cccdisciples.org) or write on the pew pads to RSVP for this delightful meal and program.

3D Ministry Trip– American Passion Play

3D Ministry is making plans to go see the **American Passion Play** in Bloomington, IL on **Saturday March 21**. The play begins at 1:00 p.m. and goes to 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per seat. We will also stop for dinner before we leave Bloomington. We plan to drive the church bus. This is year 97 for this Passion Play, the longest running Passion play in the United States. It dramatizes the whole life of Jesus and brings to life his teachings. This production uses elaborate sets and a large cast that includes animals. **Please register your interest with the church office (428-4336) soon** so we can secure our tickets and make plans for transportation. This is a good opportunity to **invite a friend** to experience this event with you. You can find more information at:

www.americanpassionplay.org. If you have questions, contact **Don Martin at 428-4336 or dmartin@cccdisciples.org**.

SUNDAY, February 2, 2020

WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Why Did the Disciple Cross the Road?

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Michael E. Karunas

Chalice Class

Title: Australian Bushfires

Focus: Over the past several months, bushfires have raged throughout parts of Australia.

What are the causes of these fires? Why have they only recently come to public attention in the United States? What does the news coverage of the Australian fires tell us about what we care about and how we respond?



Preschool News

This week the preschool students continued to learn about animals in winter, winter weather, and ways we keep warm in winter. The 4's classes also started reciting nursery rhymes. The teachers were busy hosting parent-teacher conferences. They met with many families to discuss the academic and social/emotional progress each child has had thus far this year, what the next step is in their development, and how we can work as a team to help their child meet those developmental milestones. What a busy and productive way to end January!

-Jennifer Van Dyke
Director

Counting On You

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Worship Attendance = 257

Sunday School & Small Groups = 67

YOUTH MISSION TRIP NEWS

June 29 through July 3, 2020

We're going to Memphis with the Disciples Summer Mission. Contact David Martin for more details. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Food Collection

The food collection for February 2nd will be canned soup and cereal. The shopping cart is located in the Connection Café for your convenience.

Post Christmas Letter in the Office

Herb and Duff Knudsen have sent us their annual holiday letter and family picture. Herb is a former interim minister of Central. For those interested, the picture and letter are in the office. Stop by this week if you would like to see and read it.



Youth Midwinter Conference!
January 25th & 26th, 2020

6th Annual Good Samaritan
Culinary Cookoff

If you are interested in helping to sponsor this Cook-off (Friday, March 13, 2020, at GT Church), we have info in the church office.

217-428-4336 or
central@cccdisciples.org.

The Night Ministry

When it comes to stepping out of the comfort zone, I experienced that often during the summer of 1997 when I worked for The Night Ministry in Chicago. The Night Ministry was started by an Episcopalian priest in the early 1980s who recognized that those walking the city sidewalks at *night* were different than those doing so during the daytime. His mission was to bring the love of Jesus Christ to that night-time population. By the time 1997 rolled around, the Night Ministry consisted of a bus that would make a dozen stops in different neighborhoods between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. Each stop would last about 15-20 minutes, and in that time, a volunteer would hand out sandwiches and drinks (warm or cold depending on the season), while a "Night Minister" would offer a listening ear and prayer to anyone who might desire it and a nurse would provide some very brief medical counseling and advice. In addition to this bus ministry, four to five Night Ministers were deployed to certain neighborhoods. They would walk the streets of that area between the hours of 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. They would sit in the bars of that area or on the park benches or stand at the bus stops and talk and visit with the people on the streets at night.



The philosophy of The Night Ministry was to *be* the presence of God in Jesus Christ for the people on the streets at night. The sidewalks, parks, and bars of the city became the parish, the people that inhabited them the congregation. In the summer of 1997, I was an intern for The Night Ministry and assigned work alongside Father Joe in Uptown on the northside. Father Joe was not a "father" in the priestly sense of the word, but he was well over 6 feet tall and passed as the spitting image of Jerry Garcia. He had worked on the streets of Uptown for nearly a decade, and everyone knew and respected him. The title "Father Joe" was meant as a sign of respect. It was probably also due to the fact that the uniform of a Night Minister was simple. Blue jeans, a name tag, and a collared shirt – meaning a shirt resembling the collar a Roman Catholic priest wears. Father Joe described the purpose of the uniform this way: *Wearing the collared shirt is a way of saying we are 'open for business.'* *Our job as Night Ministers is not to convert others to Christ. If that happens, wonderful, but it is to be the presence of God's love for them. It is to invite them, through our very presence in their environment, to recognize that God's love is for them.*



(continued on page 3....)

I agreed with the Night Ministry's ministry philosophy, but I had trouble with that collared shirt! Every day, I would leave the middle-class, highly educated, manicured parks, and clean streets of my Hyde Park south-side neighborhood and drive 30 minutes north – to a place that didn't look like where I lived; where the people didn't look like me or do the things in their free time that I did. I would spend six hours four nights a week, drinking orange juice and shooting darts at Mike's Place or Carol's Pub and linger around the corner of Clark and Wilson... the only one wearing a collared shirt! That shirt symbolized my feelings of vulnerability – as a minister-in-training, not sure of how to be a minister period, let alone a minister on the streets. I felt awkward with that shirt on – having none of the street cred of Father Joe, and mostly I felt exposed – I couldn't hide; my doubts and lack of confidence fully on display.

Every night, there was a moment, after I parked my car on Clark or Wilson, when I silently said to myself before opening the door, stepping out, and starting my shift, "Okay... ready? Let's go!" and even as I was saying those words to myself, I heard the answer coming back... *NO! No, I'm not "ready,"* because are we ever really "ready" to embrace what is uncomfortable for us? As it turns out, I had some amazing experiences with The Night Ministry. I met people in the streets of Uptown I still remember today. That summer affirmed my desire to follow the call to ordained ministry and not further academic study. I also learned the value of what can be communicated to others by our very presence. I never conquered my feelings of inadequacy, but what I learned was that ministry is about learning to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations. We may never be "ready" to do anything God calls us to do, but that does not prevent us from stepping out of our comfort zone. The greatest growth may happen when we do.

Blessings... Michael

Christcare Stitches Celebrate Their 20th Anniversary!

February 2020 marks the 20th anniversary for the Christcare Stitches, with Ernestine Mrozinski as leader. Six women began knitting and quilting blankets for children. Today, the group meets every Tuesday morning and is comprised of 35+ women and men of various faiths. They knit, crochet, and make quilts from fabric or fleece. In July 2004, our 1,000th blanket was blessed, and in December 2019, almost 19,000 blankets have been given to Project Linus for children in crisis. We have been blessed by the fellowship and the sharing experienced in Stitches.

Just Flicks - February 9th, 6:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church

Summer in the Forest will be shown on Sunday, February 9. This documentary tells the story of the L'Arche communities, which are described in their website as "people with and without intellectual disabilities living, working, praying, and playing together in community." A summary on IMDb says: "Like countless others, Philippe, Michel, Andre, and Patrick were labeled 'idiots', locked away and forgotten in violent asylums, until the 1960s, when the young philosopher Jean Vanier took a stand and secured their release - the first time in history that anyone had beaten the system. Together they created L'Arche, a commune at the edge of a beautiful forest near Paris." Don Martin will lead the discussion.



Sunday (2)

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Sanct.
9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
9:00-Fellowship Coffee
9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Sanct.
12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, Great Hall
12:00-Youth Group

Monday (3)

5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes
6:00-Girl Scouts Troop #3262, Disc. Rm.

Tuesday (4)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-Stitchers, Disciples Room/207
9:30-Card Ministry, 240
10:30-Staff Meeting, Conference Room
4:00-Marketing/Evangelism, Conf. Room
4:00-Dorcas
6:00-Women's Group, 240
6:30-Heart & Soul Choir, Choir Room & Connection Café

Wednesday (5)

10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friend. Center
10:30-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (6)

10:00-Alanon, 240
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (7)

Saturday (8)

Sunday (9)

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Sanct.
9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
9:00-Fellowship Coffee
9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Sanct.
12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, Great Hall
4:00-Youth Group
6:00-Just Flicks, "Summer in the Forest",
First Presbyterian Church

Serving Schedule—Sunday, February 2, 2020

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kim Maple & Laura Chapman
 9:00 - Laura Chapman

Imboden Worship:

Shirley Swarthout & Judy Ford

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Pamela Bednar, Al & Chris Fagin, Gene & Sandy Garver*, Debbie Hoffert, Gary Horvath, George & Pearl Jones, Gail Prince, David Wagner
 9:00 - Amy Lester
 10:30 - Team 2 - Pam Ferguson, Dale Ford, Roberta Gorden, Erik Harm, Thomas Karunas, Kathy Kauzlarich, Christine Lyman-Harm*, Janet Lyman, Audrey Miller, Ron Oliver, Jeannie Rade, Steve Swarthout

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Moran, Bobby Munos
 10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Matthew Swarthout, Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - George & Pearl Jones
 9:00 - Laura Chapman
 10:30 - Glen & Jody Featherstun

Acolytes:

10:30 - Luke Karunas & Kellan Niles-Cox

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Pat Penhallegon
 10:30 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Larry & Michelle Bafford, Kim Miller, Suzie Miller*

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - Kevin Wilmot 875-7767

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Susan Bryant
 9:00 - Laura Chapman

Hospitality:

9:00 - Kathy Matherly

Tech:

9:00 - Jodie Walwer & Mike Tanzyus

Sunday School Classes	Floor	Room
Koinonia	2	212
Ecclesia	2R	240
Chalice	2	207
6th grade - 12th grade	2R	280
Kindergarten - 5th grade	2R	230
Nursery (Birth - 5 years old)	1R	150

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

February 3 8:30-12:00 - Mary Jane Oliver
 February 4 8:30-12:00 - Gretchen Kirby
 February 5 8:30-12:00 - Suzie Miller
 February 6 8:30-12:00 - Karen Penn
 February 7 8:30-12:00 - Roberta Gorden

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www.cccdisciples.org
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Michael E. Karunas.....Senior Minister
 Don Martin.....Minister of Music
 Tina Miller..... Associate Minister of CE & Family Life
 David Martin.....Youth Director
 Cordelia "Dee Dee" GainOrganist
 David Williams.....Organist
 Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
 Hannah Brimmer.....Social Media Coordinator
 Gabrielle Coulthard.....Nursery Attendant
 Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant
 Cheryl WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
 Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
 Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
 Amber Marshall.....Preschool Teacher
 Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher
 Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher
 Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
 Lora WrightLead Caretaker
 Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
 Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
 Toby Jones.....Caretaker
 Donté Morgan.....Caretaker

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