

The Central Visitor

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

Vol. XCII

Decatur, Illinois, December 23, 2020

No. 51

Millikin University Vespers Anniversary CDs and Ornaments for Sale



Stop by the church daily between 8 a.m. and 12 noon to purchase a special 60th anniversary edition Vespers CD and ornament. The CD is a double disc set including the performance from 2019 along with a "best of" collection. Purchase the CDs for \$25.00, the ornament for \$20.00 or... both for \$35.00! The proceeds will be shared 50/50 between Millikin University vocal music programs and Central's choir intern program.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE
STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AT 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ON
FACEBOOK LIVE
AT 9:15 a.m.

Flip the Script

Text: Matthew 5:38-48
Scott Woolridge

This is the last *Visitor* of 2020. See ya next year!

Merry Christmas



And Happy New Year

Merry Christmas Parents,

Please check your email for lessons and Facebook links with videos that I created to connect with your children this holiday season.



Traditional Carols That Tell the True Story of Jesus' Birth

You've sung these Christmas carols-
-Now discover their rich stories!
This four-week, multi-media curriculum reintroduces kids to the story of Christmas through these beloved carols. Each interactive lesson reveals God's plan: Jesus!



Sunday, December 27th, 2020
Front table: Gene & Sandy Garver
Elder: Tom Spry
PA: David Martin

Significant In-significance

When Amy and I traveled to the Holy Land in 2008, our favorite place to visit was probably Galilee. It is a place hard *not* to like. Located in the northern part of Israel, it contains the Sea of Galilee and is home to rolling hills, green and yellow fields, and plenty of sunshine. It houses the ancient towns Cana, Capernaum, and Nazareth, and it is for this last fact that it is important to us as Christians... and at Christmas. Galilee, you see, is Jesus' territory. He spent much of his time in Capernaum, which is located along the sea. He delivered the Beatitudes on Galilee's hills. He multiplied the loaves and fish there as well. It was the waters of the Sea of Galilee that Jesus calmed when they were stormy, and on which he walked when the disciples were afraid, and... his home town was Nazareth.

Before he was known as "The Christ," he was known as "Jesus of Nazareth." Have you ever wondered why the letters INRI appear on the cross over Jesus' head in so much religious artwork? It is because the scriptures tell us that when Jesus was crucified the charge against him was placed over him, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." And "INRI" are these initials in Latin, the language of the Romans who crucified him.

It is no surprise that Galilee and Nazareth are significant places for us today. Nazareth is where Joseph practiced carpentry and was the hometown of Mary. Today, there are churches that stand over two important sites. The first is the place where Joseph was told in a dream not to dismiss Mary but to take her as his wife, and the second is where the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God.

Yet what might be overlooked by us in our contemporary readings of the Gospel story is that neither Galilee nor Nazareth was that significant in its own time. From the perspective of the Romans, who occupied the entire region, the whole territory was a bit "beneath them." For a Roman official, being assigned to area of Galilee, would not have considered the post a desired one. It was geographically far removed from the cosmopolitan cities of the empire. That

(continued on page 3...)

included Jerusalem. Even within what is today Israel, Galilee was nowhere near the capital city. Jerusalem was the economic, educational, and spiritual capital of the land, as the temple was located there. Galilee was far removed, both geographically and culturally. From the perspective of Jerusalem, Galilee was the “back woods,” less sophisticated socially and under-educated. In John 1:46, Nathaniel sums up what many would have thought about Galilee and Nazareth at the time. When his brother Philip told him about Jesus, he said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” It’s a rhetorical question with the answer being “no.” Because why would anything “good” come from there?

Yet while Nazareth in Galilee might have been *in*-significant at the time, it is the very nature of God to speak Good News in *in*-significant places, and only because of that, do they become *sig*-nificant for us. God does not appear in places because they are significant. God’s appearance there makes them significant. Which means that for us to overlook the seemingly *in*-significant places and people in our lives is quite possibly to miss the message God seeks to deliver most. Put another way, if we believe that God can speak words of life in our insignificant places, how might our understanding of *all* places be affected? That is what the Christmas story asks us to think about and consider. May we do so as we celebrate Christmas this year.

Blessings... Michael

STEWARDSHIP CORNER If you plan to give to the church prior to year end and want your gift to be recognized as a donation in the 2020 tax year, please keep these dates in mind:

Online giving or Text to Give - submit no later than December 31st

By check - mail no later than December 31st (must have a 2020 postmark) or drop your gift at the church office no later than December 31st.

Following these guidelines will ensure your gift is reflected in your year end giving statement.

Thank you for your generous gifts throughout the year! The Stewardship Team wishes each of you a Christmas filled with peace and joy.



Sunday (27)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
9:15-Contemporary Worship,
Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

Monday (28)

Tuesday (29)

Wednesday (30)

Thursday (31) - New Year's Eve!

**Friday (January 1) - Happy New Year!
Church & Office closed**

Saturday (2)

Sunday (3)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
9:15-Contemporary Worship,
Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall



Happy Birthday!!

Birthdays this coming week

(12/27-1/2)!

Cruz Bottom, Kathleen Dudley,
John Funk, Debbie Hoffert,
Gabbi Morelli, Charles Stanley

Counting On You

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Total (online and worship leaders) = 425

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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
 Paula Partain.....Preschool Staff
 Lora WrightLead Caretaker
 Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
 Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
 Toby Jones.....Caretaker



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To "like" hit the thumbs-up icon.
 To "follow" click on the ellipse icon (...).
 You will see a list of options pop up.

Find the option marked "follow" and click on that.

Temporary Church Office Hours as of
December 1st, 2020:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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