

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. XC

Decatur, Illinois, March 7, 2018

No. 10

Iron Sharpens Iron

Calling all men! We will be attending the Springfield, IL. Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference on Saturday, March 17 as a group. Please sign up today and join us! This one-day conference is for men of all ages: beginning with men age 13 or older. Cost is only \$47 (\$32 for students) plus \$8 if you want the optional on-site lunch. There will be sixteen different seminars for men at this conference so we know there will be something for every one of us. Ride sharing will be available from the church. Sign up in the Welcome Center. Questions? Call, text or email Paul Gorden at 309-531-2665 or fast2laps@me.com.

DORCAS WOMEN ARE READY FOR SPRING!

ALL Central women are invited to Dorcas Disciples' Tuesday, March 20th meeting. It will be in the Disciples Room at 6:30 p.m. We are happy to have Amy Zietlow present our program. Based on her book, Homeward Bound, Amy will share with us how the "church" can support caregivers and their aging/ill loved ones. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow. Please contact Nancy Ellen Taylor at 877-2495 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to make your reservation for our March 20th meeting.

Easter Lilies on Sale

The Worship Department is selling lilies again this year for Easter decorating in the sanctuary. You may purchase a lily for **\$14.50** in memory of a loved one who has died or to honor the life of one who is still living. Lilies are on sale in the Friendship Center on Sunday, **March 18th** or in the office through Monday, **March 26th**. Just be sure to let us know the name of the person you are honoring. You will then be welcome to take the lily after the 10:30 Easter Sunday services or you can pick them up through Wednesday, April 4th. Please note that the church and office will be closed on Monday, April 2nd.

Big Book Sale Day this Sunday

All [morning this Sunday, March 11](#), we will have chance to buy books in the Friendship Center. Our Preschool will begin its Spring Book Sale this Sunday. This is a great chance to buy the children/grandchildren in your life an Easter gift. Additionally, books from the late Rev. Dr. Edwin Jacobs' life will be on sale. After Edwin retired from the active ministry, he became a member of Central and was ultimately laid to rest in our care.

SUNDAY, March 11, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Faces at the Cross: The Roman Centurion

Text: *Mark 15:27-39*

Michael E. Karunas

Women's Book Club

Mar. 12 - 12:30 pm & Mar. 13 - 5:30 pm
at Panera

This Month's Read: *The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady* by **Mary Lynn**.

Description: All the world it appeared that Sarah Grady had everything--wealth; a handsome, successful husband; and an esteemed place in society. She was beautiful, poised, and well-educated. But undervalued and overlooked in her restrictive 1910's society, Sarah needed more.

Good Samaritan Lunch

Good Sam is coming up on the 10th of this month. We need 5 to 6 people to help prepare at 8:00am to 11:00am, and 12 to 14 people to serve and clean-up after from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome to stay after 1:00 to have a meal.

Please sign-up at the Welcome Center, email central@cccdisciples.org or call the church office at 217-428-4336.

Counting On You

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Worship Attendance..... 266

Sunday School & Small Groups.....72

Scholarship Applications

Higher education is important and valuable as in today's society.

A college education opens possibilities and helps students discover and foster unique gifts and talents. It also demonstrates a person's willingness to make an investment in his/her own future!

Central Christian Church supports those pursuing higher education and we understand the challenges of meeting its cost. Scholarships are open to all high school graduates as well as anyone who is currently attending a college, university, technical and vocational, or planning to attend one during the 2018-2019 academic year.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DATES:

Available: March 26, 2018

Deadline: May 4, 2018 @ 3 pm

Turn Your Clocks Ahead 1 Hour Saturday Night!



Time to Spring Ahead

Minister's Article

"I Got Involved When..."

During Lent, our three (3) small groups are telling first-person narratives from their own lives deriving from a weekly prompt that is based on the sermon from the preceding Sunday. This week the groups will be telling stories inspired by Simon of Cyrene who "stepped up" in the crowd to carry Jesus' cross. The prompt for this week is: "Tell of a time in your life when you got involved in something." The following is my own narrative inspired by that question.

"Has there ever been a church softball league?" It was an innocent enough question, I thought and not worthy of a long, drawn-out explanation. Besides I knew the answer. Of course there had been a church softball league. I was ending my first year in the ministry, fresh out of graduate school. Among the many stories told me as I got settled in that first call was how, "in the old days" there had been a co-ed church softball league. Being an ex-baseball player myself, I was certainly interested in putting a team together from First Christian. So at our monthly Ministerial Alliance meeting, I innocently asked the question. The ecumenical group always met in the back room at the local buffet – a converted roller rink known for its fried chicken, soft-serve ice cream station and dark brown and gold vinyl chairs. "Well... let me tell you about the church softball league," the bearded Methodist (and longest-tenured) pastor said, leaning back in his chair and twirling a toothpick in his mouth. There had been a league at one point, he reported, but interest waned, primarily due to the commissioner getting burned out. The league quickly folded after that. "But... if someone were possibly interested in heading up the league again," he looked at me wistfully, "it just might witness a resurrection." And that is how I came to be the commissioner of the Centralia church softball league – for the next five years!!!

At our team leaders meeting that first year, the rep from First Presbyterian dominated the whole meeting time and nit-picked over every possible rule, only at the end of the meeting to tell us that he wasn't going to be having a team in the league anyway. The second year, I absolutely knew that another church was getting ringers to play on their team in the tournament. But I couldn't say much. Because as it just so happened, our team was really good. We had, as legitimate members of our church, a collection of terrific athletes, both men and women. So I, as the league commissioner, was in the awkward position of either a) handing out the champions' trophy to our church; or b) filing a complaint (as a coach) against another church to myself (as commissioner), with the result that my team would have a better chance of winning.

We always played games on the fields at the western edge of town on Saturday evenings. One year, at the end of July, we were playing Zion Hill Baptist. I got there early and so did their coach – who like me, was also the pastor of the small country church north and east of Centralia. He was a short, roundish guy with silvery hair that was perfectly combed, muscular forearms, a perpetually tanned face and a big, warm smile. He was genuinely warm, affable, kind and I enjoyed his friendship. We met at home plate. The sun was beginning to set. A gentle breeze blew over the infield and long shadows stretched out behind us. The heat and humidity of the day was beginning to ease. Distant birds offered a chorus of back and forth melodies.

Minister's Article Continued on Page 3....

The pastor turned to me and said, completely out of the blue, "Michael... I just can't wait to get to heaven! I mean, I can feel those streets of gold beneath my feet" (at which point he did a little jig right there in the batters box). I was taken off guard to say the least. Not only have I never been the kind of guy – or Christian – to open a conversation that way. But in that moment, as I took in the remains of that day, I thought about my young son, resting at home and not even a year old; and how the next day our family of three would be heading north for our annual vacation and I thought, "Nah... not me. I don't think I'm quite ready to go yet. I rather look forward to living on earth, at least for awhile longer."

I learned a lot from those 5 years – like how to put more stock into the opinions of those who are going to participate than in those who won't; like how playing dual relationships (especially in the church) is always difficult; like how to be careful about the questions you ask in a non-profit organization, because you just might end up the commissioner of the softball league. But also, how you don't have to share the same theology as someone, to respect them, appreciate them and enjoy their friendship.

Blessings – *Michael*

Special Note of Thanks

Operation Enduring Support would like to send a big thank you to everyone who donated girl scout cookies and money for our military overseas. It will help put a smile on our troops faces and let them know they are not forgotten.

*Thank You So Much,
Carol Bischoff*

Chalice Class

Title: Infrastructure

Focus: On February 12, President Trump introduced an initiative to spur new infrastructure spending. What is infrastructure, and what role does it play in our everyday lives? How does our faith intersect with concerns about infrastructure?

Preschool News

Our preschool students are busy this week making decorations for St. Patrick's Day and spring. The 4's class is having fitness week. A special guest is coming each day to do workouts with our students. They are also making stone soup for snack on Wednesday. The Pre-K class is going to Cracker Barrel on Friday to learn about restaurant etiquette. This is usually a fun adventure for our students!

This Sunday, the preschool is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the Friendship Center. This is a great time to purchase books for the young children in your lives. If you do not have anyone to shop for, please consider making a cash donation to the preschool. We will use donations to purchase books for our classrooms and for students who would not otherwise get a book. We would also like to donate books to an organization called CASA. CASA is a group of community volunteers who are court appointed advocates for abused and neglected children. With your help, volunteers would be able to take books to the children they represent as a way to transition in to conversation and ease anxiety.

Public enrollment starts March 12th. Please invite anyone who may be interested to stop by the preschool for a visit.

*Jennifer Van Dyke
Director*



Sunday, March 11, 2018

Music:

Offertory-David Williams, piano

Anthem-When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

8:00-Worship Service

8:00-Preschool Book fair for Church, F. Center

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes

9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes

12:00-Driver's Meeting, Disciples' Room

4:00-Youth Group: Butterfly House
Project Part 2

6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church

Monday (12)

9:00-Preschool Public Registration

9:00-Good Sam

12:00-Women's Book Club, Panera

Tuesday (13)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-Preschool Public Registration

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

1:00-Don's Small Group, 240

4:00-Scott's Small Group, Connection Café

5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera

6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Rm & Conn. Café

7:00-NWRAPS, Disciples' Room

Wednesday (14)

9:00-Preschool Public Registration

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

10:30-Minister's Meeting

2:30-Prayer Shawl Meeting, Disciples' Room

5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples' Room

5:30-Christian Ed Meeting, 240

Thursday (15)

9:00-Preschool Public Registration

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Tina's Small Group, 240

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (16)

9:00-Preschool Public Registration

Saturday (17)

Sunday (18)

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

9:00-SS McLesson, McDonalds

10:30-Worship Service

In the Hospital...

DMH:
No One

St. Mary's:
Loren Glasscock



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID



Serving Schedule—Sunday, March 11

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Claudia Quigg, Kevin Miller

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Charlotte Ballance, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Brad Munos, Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall

10:30 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Matthew Swarthout, Jon French, David Martin, Zach Martin, Mark Beal, Doug Soebbing, Roger Rutherford, Ron & Gwen Miller, Seth Martin, Pam Ferguson, Brittney Munos, Luc Longcor, Pam Larrick, Shelby Baum, Dave Sheffer

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos, Bobby Munos

10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Matthew Swarthout, Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - Merle Chapman, Laura Chapman

10:30 - Randy & Shirley Brooks, Larry & Michele Bafford

Acolytes:

8:00 - *Open*

10:30 - Kaeden McCoy, Peyton Swarthout

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:30 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Christine Lyman-Harm, Larry & Michele Bafford, Janelle Beedle

Van Drivers:

8:00 service & 9:15 Sunday School - Dave Sheffer 853-2779

9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 service—John Baird 429-5651

10:30 service only - Ron Oliver 875-0223

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

March 12 8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver

March 13 8:30-12:00 - Janet Gray

March 14 8:30-12:00 - Dave Flanders

March 15 8:30-12:00 - Carolyn McCall

March 16 8:30-12:00 - Gail Prince

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522
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www.cccdisciples.org
e-mail: central@cccdisciples.org

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
Ashely Sparks.....Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
Charla Stone.....Nursery Attendant
Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant
Melissa Gillis.....Nursery Attendant
Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
Angela Moore.....Director Assistant
Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
Sharon Renfro.....Preschool Teacher
Samantha West.....Preschool Teacher
Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
Lora WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Vernon Wimberly.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker

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

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