



**Central
Christian
Church**
(Disciples of Christ)

The CONNECTOR



March 17, 2011
Volume 20-3

Dr. L. Brent Cantrell
church-234-6231
cell-504-7052
brent@centralchristianwaterloo.org

email: central@centralchristianwaterloo.org
website: centralchristianwaterloo.org

Connecting friends and family of Central Christian Church with each other, the community, and beyond.

From the Pastor

What is Lent

It does not refer to the stuff you get off the dryer screen. (Ba-dump-pump)

Lent is a season of preparation and anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent is observed during the forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday, which was this past March 9th. (Thanks to Alice Baker for her leadership in this event).. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. So, this year Lent began on Wednesday, March 9th and will conclude on Easter Sunday, April 24th.

Unlike Christmas, which is always December 25th, Easter's date changes year by year? Why? Because Easter is based upon the seasons of the year. So how do we figure out the date of Easter each year? Good question.

Get ready. Here is the formula (insert your own drum roll here)...

Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox (March 21). So, Easter can occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

Just a bit more Easter trivia. The earliest then that Easter can occur is March 22nd. In 2008 Easter fell on March 28th. We will not see Easter that early again until 2160. The latest Easter can fall is April 25th. That happened the last time in 1943. This year, 2011 when Easter falls on April 24th will be the latest Easter occurs until 2095.

There you have it. Impress your friends with this bit of trivia. Better yet, invite them to be your guest for one or more of our Lenten or Easter ministries or activities.

Perhaps more important than the date is the purpose of the Easter Journey from Lent to Jesus' Resurrection.

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days before he began his public ministry.

Lent is a season to grow closer in faith, practice, and commitment to Jesus Christ in thanksgiving for the gift of Easter. Let us be about that purpose this year in our lives and in the life of our faith family here at Central Christian Church.

Blessings,

L. Brent Cantrell

Please Pray this Easter

With so much chaos, evil and destruction happening in our world; I would ask you to join me daily in prayer to God. If there ever was a time we desperately need God's divine intervention and providence....this is the time. These days are ripe for sin and evil to grow. Let us pray for our world, our church, our personal, committed-passionate faith, and for those who have as yet not professed Jesus Christ as their Savior.

This is a prayer you might join with me in lifting to God each day:

God, unleash a movement of Your Spirit like
we have never seen, heard or experienced before. Amen

Lenten Devotional Booklets

Help yourself to the Lenten Devotional Booklets available on the table outside the center sanctuary doors.

The Light Shines in the Darkness explores the life of Jesus and the passion as presented in the Gospel of John. The message of hope in John's Gospel is powerful and written with one purpose in mind: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name." (John 20:30-31)

F.R.O.G. Pad

After a two week break we are getting all hopped up for the remainder of this school year's Wednesday night faith formation programming to the Next Generation. We start at 6 pm with dinner. Hop then to age appropriate groups for fellowship and faith formation. And the highlight...our closing worship service. With the hopping and ribbiting all croaked away, we head home at 7:30 pm.



Easter Baptism

Anyone interested in Christian Baptism this Easter, please let the Church Office know so, if needed, Pastor Class(es) can be arranged and preparations made for your Profession of Faith and Christian Baptism. To facilitate Easter Baptisms, particularly for youth who desire to be part of a Pastor's Class we need to know by no later than March 30th.

Guests in Worship During Easter

We are anticipating many guests in the pews and sharing with us in worship during Easter. As we seek revival, we are confident that revival will be experienced with more and more coming to church. As our faith blossoms, others will naturally seek to join us in this experience of revival.

Already we know some who are planning to be our honored guests. The Dance Troupe from Wartburg College will share this ministry and witness of Liturgical Dance on Sunday, April 3.

Barbara Prather, Executive Director of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank will share information and updates about this outreach in our community on Sunday, March 20th. Also, we are pleased to announce that Rev. Don Hiscox our Regional Pastor for Congregational and Clergy Care will be a guest in worship. Don will be retiring from full-time ministry in May. Please join us as we share worship with Don, hear a testimony from him, and in fellowship extend gratitude for his ministry and contribution to the life and vitality of Central Christian Church.

Maria Benham, Executive Director of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Iowa will join us for Worship on Sunday, March 27th as she shares information about this outreach in our community.

Lent Challenge: DARE TO READ

It is very thrilling to see so many sign up to purchase and read one of the four books recommended for reading this Lent. We do pray that as you read the book or books you purchased you will find new passion and understanding of your call to radical discipleship.

If you have not yet purchased one of the four books, we will extend the opportunity to do so through March 27th. It does take about a week for books to arrive after being ordered. We order each Monday morning based upon additional requests.

There is also the opportunity to have a few small group conversations about the books. Dr. Cantrell would be willing to facilitate these conversations or one or more from each group can take the initiative, invite the others, determine a place and informally share insights, questions, and impressions.

If you desire for Dr. Cantrell to organize or facilitate a group, please let him know and indicate on the group conversation sign up poster....day of the week and time of the day that will work best.

I would anticipate three conversations....lasting about one hour each....at church....Panera/Cabin Coffee/Village Inn or in a home of a participant. Let us know....Dr. Cantrell cannot make arrangements unless he hears from you.

Do remember, the group conversation is not a requirement – but an additional way to enhance your individual reading and study.

Recital of Violin and Piano Music

Dr. Alan Asher, Violinist, will be the featured artist at a recital of violin and piano music on Friday, April 8, in the Sanctuary of Central Christian Church. The recital will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Asher studied violin and chamber music at the Boston Conservatory of Music and holds the MM in violin performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and the DM from the Florida State University. Dr. Asher has performed as a concerto soloist with orchestras in Texas, Florida, Nebraska, and New Mexico. He has given chamber music recitals in Boston, Cleveland, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

In addition to performing, Dr. Asher has served as a full-time music faculty member at Valdosta State University, University of Nebraska-Kearney, and at Eastern New Mexico University. Dr. Asher earned the MLS degree at the Texas Woman's University and is currently the Art & Music Librarian in Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa.

The featured pianist for the recital, Laurie Braaten-Reuter, is a member of the Wartburg College music faculty and former organist of Central.

This recital is open to the public. A free will offering will be accepted at the door. All proceeds will go to benefit the Central Christian Church building fund.

Camp Registration Has Begun

It is time to think about summer! Information and registration forms for Church Camp at the Christian Conference Center are now available through the Church Office, or online at the Regional website (www.uppermidwestcc.org).

There's a camp for everyone in the family from Grandcamp (grandparents and grandchild) to children and youth age-divided camps, to ADAM (Arts, Drama and Music) - canoeing camp, equestrian camp, to a Family Weekend Camp. The poster on the bulletin board outside the Church Office has highlights. Brochures with all the details are available through the Church office.

Central pays 1/2 of the camp registration for those directly connected to Central Christian Church. The Region, to undergird camp attendance, has resources so everyone who wants to go to camp... goes to camp! No one will be turned away due to financial need. This will be discreetly handled. Let the Church Office know.

Church Camp. Make plans to attend. It changed my life. It will do the same for you.

Love Cedar Valley is Coming

Love Cedar Valley will happen this year, at least the big day focus, on Saturday April 2nd. The date is coming quickly. We are needing someone to organize some simple project, outreach, kindness, service.

Love Cedar Valley is an initiative to bring the churches of the Cedar Valley together in simple acts of kindness, service, and prayer. Last year over 30 churches participated and literally, thousands of individuals. Each church, or in some cases, several groups within a church, decide upon a kindness outreach, service outreach, or encouragement outreach. Our past Love Cedar Valley outreach activities have been handing out Free Breakfast bags at the corner of Kimball and Park Lane. Last year our Love Cedar Valley Outreach was to participate in the Kimball Ridge Clean Up Day.

What can we do this year? More importantly, we are seeking from God a calling of an individual or two to spearhead and coordinate the participation of Central Christian in Love Cedar Valley. If you sense God is calling you to this role, please contact the Church Office or speak to Pastor Brent.



Building God's Kingdom Update

Praise God! Our Building God's Kingdom journey has truly begun! We continue to receive cash contributions and five-year-pledge commitments to provide resources for future building. Also we are looking for people to serve on the three task committees created by the Ministry Council. Our Lenten travels will provide spiritual openness to what God is calling us to do.

Responding to some questions about Building God's Kingdom plan, we are providing a brief review of the ground already covered in this pilgrimage. Going back to July 2008, the Futures Committee at that time offered three recommendations:

1. Decide on the specific group for which we were targeting our programs.
2. Appoint a building and lands group that would further investigate the requirements needed to build a new fellowship hall.
3. Build up our own spirituality so that whatever we would do would be the will of God.

In spring 2010 Tim Jones from Structure-spelling was enlisted to submit plans for a new fellowship hall. After he had listened to our discussions, he drew up two possible schemes that would fulfill our requirements. One was to extend the current Fellowship Hall straight out from where it is now. The second one was to build the new hall on our upper parking lot.

In July 2010 the Ministry Council created "Achieving the Goal (1963-2011-The Extraordinary Journey." Each Sunday from July 25 to September 12 someone from this group spoke during worship describing the concepts being considering in order to move God's Kingdom forward. Two Informational meetings for input were held. On

September 12, 2010, a special congregational meeting was held after worship and the following motion was passed by a 56-13 vote:

After prayer, congregational input, much conversation and intentional discernment, the Ministry Council recommends to the congregation, for prayerful consideration and vote, the approval of a Capital Fundraising Campaign of approximately \$1.3 million for the Upper Level Addition (proposal scheme 1A of the architect's drawings).

The goal of this initial campaign, anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2010, is to secure commitments/pledges of at least \$1 million dollars to be paid over a ten-year period. A cash reserve minimum of \$500,000 should exist prior to proceeding with the construction phase of this project.

Moderator MariLynn Pierce appointed a Faith Fund Task Group (FFTG) with Lisa Walker and Wendy Brudevold Co-Chairs. Other group members are Julianne Kahn, Jane Griffith, Alan Asher, Sharon Gatewood, MariLynn Pierce and Rev. Brent Cantrell. Serious work on the Capital Fundraising Campaign, which was named Building God's Kingdom, began in November. In the meantime, the General Board of the church met on November 21 after worship to extend the time for the Fund-raising Campaign until May 1, 2011.

The FFTG met in November and every Monday beginning January 2 through February 14, 2011. We prayed, discussed and listened to what God was telling us that this congregation should do to move forward. A six-week campaign was designed that featured speakers during worship service each Sunday;



a reduction of the resolution's pledge term from ten years to five; creation of educational materials, Connector articles and letters to our congregation. Two major focuses were determined--spiritual growth of our members, and groundwork for a pledge campaign that would provide resources to update our building so new ministries could be offered to bring people to Christ.

February 13, 2011 we celebrated God's work as the pledge cards were returned. As of March 8, 2011 our financial report shows the following:

BUILDING FUND BALANCE	
(03/08/2011)	-- \$90,147
CONTRIBUTIONS --	
(8/2010--03/08/2011)	
46 contributions	-- \$25,133
(from 24 contributors)	
PLEDGES -- (1/2011 - 12/2015)	
48 pledge cards	=
TOTAL	\$343,486

Then February 21, 2011, the Ministry Council created three groups to continue to move this campaign forward:

1. Faith Fund Task Group is continuing with responsibility for communication, encouragement, and promoting additional fundraising.
2. Dr. L. Brent Cantrell is forming a task group to investigate various ministries that our new facilities will allow us to pursue.

[continued on next page....]

[continued from previous page]

Building God's Kingdom Update...

3. MariLynn Pierce, Church Moderator, is appointing a building and lands oversight group that will work with city building inspectors, ADA compliance, architects, and land developers to see if there is a market for any of our land.

The FFTG and our Ministry Council are undergirded by the following principles:

**God is guiding us
We are committed
We will build our resources
We are not going to fail
God is guiding us**

Now we turn to you, our congregation. All of these groups need passionate members who are enthusiastic about Central Christian Church moving into the future. Please pray for God's guidance about which committee you might like to join. Then let your desire be known. Each group can accommodate those members who feel God's calling to participate.

With grateful hearts,
Faith Fund Task Group

Tuesday Bible Study to Resume

The Tuesday Morning, 10:30 a.m. weekly Bible Study will resume, beginning April 5th. This study is open to one and all – new students of bible study and veterans as well. Retirees and young parents. College students and Small World PreSchool families. Members of Central and folks you know – friends, co workers, etc. The only need is to bring your Bible. If you do not have a Bible....we will (at no cost) provide you with a Bible.

God's Greeters

I knew that we were a hospitable congregation! I have had great response from you and now have eight names included in this group. Thank you to Barb Moeller, Annette Ehlers, Julianne Kahn, Gordon Mathys, Chet Fredin, Linda Sharp, Linda Lambert and myself who are now officially God's Greeters at Central Christian. Annette, Linda Sharp and MariLynn Pierce have already extended their hands at the Small World Winter concert. People seem to be especially grateful to be greeted at the lower doors.

Yes, we can add more names to the list if you still feel the call. Let the office or me know.

We also have names on our Visitor's Greeting list. These are people who will make "screen door" visits to people who have shown an interest in our worship service by attending several times. Wendy Brudevold, Jerry Thordsen, Carol Papenthien, Nan and Dave Kane, Robin Thomas, Barb and Charlie Mims, Pat Deters, and Annette Ehlers extend welcome in this way.

Kudos to those of you I see making a special effort to touch base with our members before worship service on Sunday morning; and those who continue to remember to wear your name tags. We feel God's presence when you do that.

Praise God!

Sharon Gatewood
Chair, Extravagant

Scholarship Fund

The clocks are turned forward, and signs of spring will soon start showing. Before we know it another school term will be coming to a close. This makes it time to be reminded of Central's Scholarship Program. We invite any graduating senior in the Central family thinking of the next step in your education to think about making an application. Forms are available in the church office.

The fund is now over \$16,000, thanks to the generous donations of many within the Central family. Additional donations are always welcome. The healthier we keep this fund the more help we can be to our young people as they prepare for their futures. Thank you for giving this some consideration.

Wendy Brudevold, Elder
Chair of
Scholarship Committee

Wanted

If you have a treadmill or stationery bicycle sitting around that you are not using, Gary Longhorn would be interested in renting, borrowing or purchasing it. Please call Gary at 269-2030.

Thank you for all your prayers while I was ill in the hospital. I'm feeling much better. I appreciate you all.

Thank you,
Judy Owen

Greetings from California.

I am doing better each day, and look forward to being back to full strength soon. I appreciate all the concerns expressed for my well being, cards, emails, phone calls and prayers. Thank you very much. See you in April.

Allen Jedlicka

Prayer Concerns

Please pray for.....

Mary Canfield
Buz Blake
Allison Smalley
Robin Thomas
Gary Longhorn
Steve Yates
Ann Kirk
Sue Geisler
Jan Mathys
Barb Rose
Ann Hewitt
Ben Wellborn
Rachel Kahn
Hunter Jungling
Russ Watson
Damon Baker
Jared Brody
Ella Mae Pelton
Shana Lair
Larry Baker
All military personnel
The Peosta Worship Center

Missionaries:

Dick & Sharon Mueller (missionaries, Sharon is the daughter of John Loeb)

e-mail - Mueller @c.net.gt.

Terry & Carole Tufts & family (missionaries, Terry is the brother of Judy Hughes)

e-mail - 103236.2645@compuserve.com

Bev Donels
Bob Donels
Allen Jedlicka
Roy Longhorn
Dorothy Mueller
Violet Casteel
Dorothy Anderson
Donita Blood
Darrel Baker
Michelle Richter
Scott Richter
Joleen Jungling
Rev. Wil Dilsaver
Dean Jellings
Nicholas Brudevold
Matt Soriede
Matthew Helmke
Denny Paul
Ledger Dalton

Thank You

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Northeast Food Bank. In February Central Christian donated 63 pounds of food and \$155.00. Your donation helps our neighbors and friends. One in eight residents in our 16-county service area seeks assistance from a Food Bank agency each year.

Thanks again for helping us to feed the hungry in Northeast Iowa.

A huge thank you to Linda Slattenow for "filling in" for me during January and February. She did an outstanding job as usual and I so much appreciate her warm spirit and willingness to be here and "tackle" whatever is put before her!

Thanks so much,
Linda! Many blessings to you always!

Lani

I would like to thank you for your involvement with Operation Christmas Child this past year by providing 42 boxes! With partnerships of churches like yours, 10,740 shoe box gifts were collected in our area alone. Please know the results of your investment of time and energy is appreciated.

May God use our gifts to bring many children to faith in Jesus Christ. Let's get started now for November 2011!

Sincerely,

Margaret Barnes, Church Relations Coordinator

In Sympathy

We express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Dale Elliott. A service was held at Central on March 10th. Dale was a longtime member of Central and passed away on March 5th. May God comfort Dale's family and friends at this time of loss.

We have received word of the passing of Merle Rodgers. A service will be held for Merle on April 9th at 10:30 am. Merle was a longtime member of Central until moving to Florida several years ago. We express our sympathy to Merle's family and friends during this difficult time.

Dear Friends,

On January 2, it was difficult to believe how quickly February 28 would arrive, but the time did, indeed, fly as with wings and my time with you is now over. You challenged me in every way this year, with all the "extras" from your Capital Campaign. Unknowingly, you broadened my horizons and s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d my capabilities. My deepest gratitude goes to Lani for her "advance work" with notes, instructions, directions, and numerous unseen details to facilitate my work.

As always, I have been humbled by your faith and trust invested in me and my God-given skills, and it has been an honor and my great pleasure to be among you once again. Thank you for the gift of the plant garden, complete with my very own F.R.O.G.! Both serve as daily reminders of dear friends and the One in Whom we can fully rely upon for all our needs!

In his Love and Service,
Linda Slattenow

Food Bank Update

Charlie Howard reported that he only took 6 pounds of food items and paper products to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank this month. We can do better! Please bring canned vegetables, fruits, meats, boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, and other nonperishable food items to the church for the Food Bank! Put them in the barrel in the foyer and let's help feed our neighbors who are less fortunate than we.

And thanks to Charlie for donating his time taking the items to the Food Bank!

Infant/Child Dedication

Already several have inquired about the possibility of an Infant/Child Dedication. At this point we are looking at Mother's Day, May 12th. For this time of dedication in our Sunday morning worship service, you do not have to be a member of Central. If interested let the Church Office know by no later than April 20th.

Invitation

You are invited to celebrate the marriage of Brett and Deanna Yates on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm at Irv Warren Memorial Club House, 1000 Fletcher Avenue in Waterloo. Brett and Deanna were married January 21st in Isla Mujeres, Mexico.

RSVP to Steve and Lani Yates, 239-4502 or lky9448@yahoo.com

Please join the Yates family in this celebration!

Easy Risers Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 26th

6:30-11:00 am.

Central Christian Church

Tickets are \$5.00 for Adults

\$2:00 for Children

Children under 5 are free

Breakfast includes Blueberry and Regular Pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee

Ticket sale proceeds help serve local children through organizations such as the Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Aspire, Grin and Grow, YWCA Campers, Miracle Network, Kids' Cafe Food Bank, Dollars for Scholars, Camp Courageous, American Cancer Society, Central Christian Church, Waterloo Public Schools Mitten Project, Grout Museum, Sports Complex, Hospitality House

Cedar Valley Hospice Annual Living With Grief Program

The Cedar Valley Hospice is offering a Spirituality and End-of-Life Care Educational Program on Wednesday, April 13, at Allen College's Gerard Hall. Registration is at 1:00 pm, followed by the program at from 1:30 until 4:00 pm. A panel discussion will take place at 4:00. The program is free and open to the public. For more information visit cvhospice.org or call 272-2002.

Friendship Village Auxiliary Spring Brunch

Saturday, April 2nd

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

600 Park Lane, Waterloo

Brunch Tickets are \$6.00

To purchase, call 291-8388

There will also be Baked Goods, Crafts, Jewelry, and Yesterday's Treasures

Profits go to equipment for the two Health Centers and Assisted Living Facility

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
3475 Kimball Avenue
Waterloo, IA 50702
(319) 234-6231

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Waterloo, Iowa
Permit No. 1320

Return Service Requested

Events and Opportunities in March

Sunday, March 20, 2011

9:30 am Worship
Wiggly Worship
10:30 am Faith Development Hour

Monday, March 21, 2011

Meals on Wheels Delivery
6:00 pm Faith Fund Task Group
6:30 pm Ministry Council

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

6:30 pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

5:45 pm F.R.O.G. Pad

Thursday, March 24, 2011

6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 26, 2011

6:30-11 am Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast in
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 27, 2011

9:30 am Worship
Wiggly Worship
10:30 am Faith Development Hour

Monday, March 28, 2011

Noon Connector Articles Due
7:00 pm DOEs Group

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

5:45 pm F.R.O.G. Pad

Thursday, March 31, 2011

6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
