



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, June 14, 2006

No. 22



Summer Lunch Club in the AIR!

The Summer Lunch Club for children grades entering 1st - finishing 5th took flight with the help of the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles program at the Decatur Airport recently. Central's **Charlie Brown**, pictured with our group above, led us on a tour of the terminal, the control tower and arranged for our group to fly. Each child received a certificate and a poster of the controls of the plane they flew in. Thank you, Charlie!

SLC will meet at Central on June 21st for lunch and a field trip to the Children's Museum of Illinois and the Scovill Zoo Playground! Our theme this summer is *AIR it's Everywhere!* SLC meets from noon – 3:30 p.m. Aftercare is available for children from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. with advance notice. Children are not required to participate in every session to join SLC. Join us this week!



SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

At Home or Away

Text: II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Charles Watkins

Four From Central to Join Regional Mission Trip to Honduras!

Please keep **Don Tankersley, Karen McFadin, Jane Latshaw and Bob Smith** in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to leave next week, June 20th, on a mission trip to Honduras. They will join other Disciples from the Illinois/Wisconsin region on a journey to Tegucigalpa, Honduras from June 20-28th. While there, they will work with our Global Mission Partners, Bruce and Linda Hanson. In this nation still struggling to recover from Hurricane Mitch, Bruce is a nurse who teaches HIV/AIDS education and Linda teaches theological courses at the Honduran Theological Community and works as a physical therapist and consultant. The group will be working on construction projects at the seminary, a local trade school, and a housing project. Let us support the entire mission delegation with our prayers as they prepare for this life-changing experience. The four will be commissioned for their mission work abroad during both services of worship this Sunday.



Youth Column

Central Youth

Wednesday/Thursday Night Specials Back for 2006

Central Youth (grades entering 6th - finishing 12th) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, for our next gathering on June 22nd. We will enjoy supper off the grill, and swimming. Future dates include July 6th and 19th, August 2nd & 17th. Central Youth will not meet on Sunday afternoons from June through August.

Chicago & Six Flags Great America Trip July 16-July 18

Plans are coming together for a fun trip to downtown Chicago and to spend the day at Six Flags Great America Amusement Park & Hurricane Harbor Water Park. We will leave on Sunday evening, July 16th and return late on July 18th. Details and registration forms will be available soon.

Decatur Celebration Parking

Central youth will park cars at National City Bank at the corner of Eldorado Street and Main Street during the Decatur Celebration. Speak to **Pastor Robert** or **Don Martin** to sign up for the hours you are available to work. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and will provide scholarships for summer activities.

Charles's Column

Last week I heard bits and pieces of a discussion of a book by Jennifer Michael Hecht, professor of history at Nassau Community College in New York. Her book *Doubt: A History* is yet another one to add to my long list of "must read" books.

Her survey of doubt goes all the way back to classical Greece and emphasizes all the creative contributions human doubt has made to the scientific, philosophical and even religious growth and development of western culture. She observes that the condemnation of doubt as a bad thing is actually pretty recent. She explores the Greek verb *skeptesthal*, from which our word skeptic is derived, and notes that it originally meant "to examine carefully." Who among us really believes that "to examine something carefully" (that is to be skeptical) is bad?

She makes a brief reference to the way different religions deal with issues of skepticism and doubt. For example, when a youth might approach a rabbi to express her uncertainty about some teaching of Jewish faith, the rabbi might warmly and patiently suggest that she just continue to attend services and read scripture and the issue will eventually become clearer to her.

In our congregation and thousands of others both Protestant and Catholic around the world, the gospel reading for the Sunday after Easter is the story of Thomas the disciple of Christ who would not believe the witnesses to the resurrection unless and until he had seen the risen Lord himself and touched the Lord's wounded hands and put his hand in the Lord's wounded side. Unlike most of our readings which come around every three years, some version of the Thomas reading comes up every year without fail.

Probably a dozen times from Central's pulpit, in one way or another, I have concluded that the road to the strongest faith is through serious doubt, and that the amazing affirmation of the Risen Christ as "my Lord and my God" by Thomas was only possible because he had such skepticism about the resurrection reports.

But, more importantly, if Thomas had not kept on keeping company with the other disciples, he would never have been on hand to get what his faith needed. So like that ancient rabbi, my counsel to you has always been that when you enter a period of skepticism and troublesome doubt about some aspect of our faith, it is vital that you continue to keep company with the community of faith even when you are not sure that you believe any of its teachings any more.

Last Sunday morning as I was telling you the story of a man of faith who faced huge and troubling challenges to his established and traditional faith, I found it very moving to hear Central's terrific choir singing the words of the Apostles' Creed right before the sermon. And again I felt great affirmation in encouraging you not to forsake the assembly of believers even when you seriously doubt that you belong among us. I affirm you when life calls you to doubt, and I affirm the wisdom of staying connected to the family of faith and its holy rituals as the best way to "examine closely" the meaning of your life and faith.

Charles Watkins

Sunday Breakfast Club Menu - Sunday, June 18th

The SBC main dish for this week is Waffles & Fruit Toppings. Along with our main dish, fruit, yogurt, cereal, milk, juice, and coffee will be available each week. SBC will serve breakfast from 8:45-9:15 a.m. in the Great Hall every Sunday during June, July & August. Donations are accepted each week to help offset the cost of the breakfast.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Howard & Marguerite Cravens following the June 2nd death of Howard's sister, *Velma Cravens*.....to the family and friends of *Sherry Polite*, following her death on June 8th.....and to the family and friends of *Irene Roe*, following her death on June 11th.

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

The children of **Garland** and **Joan Bohn** are holding a 50th Anniversary Reception for them on Saturday, July 1st at Big D's Emporium in Columbus, Kansas. (Rev. Garland Bohn was Associate Minister at Central from 1973-1979.) Bryce, Brett, and Blair are also collecting cards, photos, and written memories for an album. If you would like to add something to the album, please mail it to Brett Wary, 1247 SW Boston Mills Rd., Columbus, KS 66725.

Notes of Thanks Received

Dear Central Christian Church,

Thank you for the wonderful breakfast. Also, thank you for the Bible dictionary. I appreciate your thinking of me while I graduated.

Love, *Deb Fulk*

A special thank you to the ministers for their comforting visits when Howard's sister passed away and to members of Central who expressed their sympathy and concern during our time of loss.

Howard & Marguerite Cravens
Steve, Chere, Julie & Elisa Peters

Youth/Family Camping Trip, August 10-13 McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, IN

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to travel to Spencer, Indiana for a three-night, camping trip to McCormick's Creek State Park. We will hike, enjoy the swimming pool, play in the low falls of the creek, worship together and enjoy a campfire each night. The cost is \$30 per youth. Families and friends are welcome to join us for the weekend with advanced reservations. Site fees will apply for families bringing their own campers/tents. Forms are now available in the Friendship Center. Contact Pastor Robert with questions.

Oooops!

At the end of the April, Central was very strong financially having completed a most successful three-year capital campaign, with giving at 99.5% of the amount anticipated in the first third of the current operating budget. But then came May! Last month, regular giving to the church was \$20,900 less than anticipated, and even though spending was well below budget, the operating deficit of the church for 2006 operations more than doubled from \$14,676 on April 30 to \$29,573 on May 31. We can't go back to April, but we can go forward from here. Please make sure your giving plan is current and help your church through this unfortunate down-turn. Central is counting on you!

Counting On You

June 11

Worship Attendance 277
Sunday School Attendance 95



Sunday, June 18, 2006

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-John Scott, Bass;
Marilyn Mertz, Piano
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:45-Summer Breakfast Club,
Great Hall
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:00-Sunday School

Monday (19)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Tuesday (20)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:15-Nominating Committee, Parlor

Wednesday (21)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:30-3:30-Summer Lunch Club
3:30-5:30-SLC Aftercare
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room

Thursday (22)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Youth Thursday Night Special at
Pastor Robert's house
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (23)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
5:30-Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday (24)

2:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Ashley Short
& Benjamin Barud

Serving Schedule—June 18, 2006

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Brett Swallow, Lois Whitaker

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Sherri Hood, Paula Hovey, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, David Shields, Max Sperry
10:00 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Katie Beal, Mark Beal, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Jon French, Dee Hill, Louellen Lusk, Karen McFadin, David Miller, Katie Miller, Janice Mitchell, Alex Otis, Andrew Rutherford, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Ropp
10:00 - Team 6 - Maxine Koenig, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

Greeters:

8:00 - Roe Skidmore, Frances Heiserman, David & Connie Shields
10:00 - Ron & Mary Jane Oliver, Ed & Lucy Acheson

Acolytes:

8:00 - Sarah Funk
10:00 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar
10:00 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Ed & Joy Adams, Bill & Carol Charlton, Bess & Harold King

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
Sunday School and 10:00 service - Kevin Wilmot
10:00 service only - Brett Swallow

June 21 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

June 19 9:00-12:30 - Alice Brooks
12:30-4:00 - Judy Ford
June 20 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
June 21 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
June 22 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
June 23 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*

Charles Watkins Senior Pastor
Robert Bushey Pastor for Children Youth and Families
Gretchen Barron Pastor for Evangelism and Membership
C. William Nichols Senior Minister Emeritus
Jim Whitaker Pastor for Visitation
Don Martin Minister of Music
Leslie Peart Organist
Valerie Rozanski Administrative Secretary
Pat Beals Church Secretary
Sue Burkham, Jane Latshaw Parish Nurse Coordinators
Joanne Frady, Sarah & Debra Fulk Childcare Providers
Shelby Larrick, Bryan Rutherford Childcare Providers
Jean Pease Preschool Director
Trudy Garland, Shelly Messmore Preschool Teachers
Kay Villarreal, Robin White Preschool Teachers
Rudi Descaro Custodian
David Flanders Custodian
Dean Hadden Custodian
Charles Wallace Custodian

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.



Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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