



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, June 21, 2006

No. 23

Central Emergency Fund

The Central Emergency Fund helps those in need by offering emergency assistance. Everyone in Decatur benefits when individuals and families have access to the basic necessities: shelter, food, clothing, and affordable healthcare. Along with our community partners, Central Christian Church is able to make a positive impact through gifts such as Emergency Food Certificates, assistance with prescription medicines, and transportation assistance. A cooperative ministry in Decatur, the Macon Assistance eXchange (MAX) program, receives a portion of the fund each month to provide rent and utility assistance. The Good Samaritan Inn, the Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry, the Oasis Day Center, Dove, Inc., the Salvation Army, Decatur Public Schools, and Catholic Charities are among the local agencies Central works along side to provide help in times of need or crisis. The Emergency Fund exists completely through donations from members and friends of Central. Sunday, July 2 and Sunday, July 9 we will receive a special offering for the Emergency Fund. Please consider giving to the Emergency Fund to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable in Decatur. It is a wonderful way for Central to provide hospitality, advocacy, and hope in building relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Last Chance for Directory Photos

A make-up day for portraits for our 2006 church directory is scheduled for **Monday, July 10th**. Appointments are available 2 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the church. We must have a minimum of 25 appointments to keep this date on the photographer's schedule. If you missed your photo appointment earlier, please call the church office to schedule a time on July 10. Or plan to sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of our church family's new pictorial directory!

Campers & Counselors Commissioning Service

Summer church campers and counselors from Central will be commissioned during the 10:00 a.m. service this Sunday, June 25th. **Kevin Wilmot, Carol Withrow** and **Andrew Rutherford**, will serve as counselors for Koinonia Camp which begins on Monday at Camp Walter Scott. **Andrew Rutherford** and **Zach Martin** will attend ADDaM Camp at the end of July. Campers attending Koinonia Camp are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Please, keep our campers and counselors in your prayers as they explore the theme *Peace Talks* this summer.



SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2006
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Open Wide Your Hearts
Text: II Corinthians 6:1-13
Robert Bushey

Mix in '06 Participants

Among the more than 5,000 participants at the Mix in '06 this week in Indianapolis are five Central women – **Lois Whitaker, Ernestine Mrozinski, Katie Miller, Jane Watkins** and **Pastor Gretchen**. With the theme of "*Dream On, Sisters!*" the participants will come together each day in worship, fellowship, study, mission, music, learning, laughter, and more. Keep these women in your prayers this week and when you see them back at Central, ask them about their experience at the Mix. They will definitely have stories to tell of this wonderful experience! Thank you, Central, for your support for our fundraisers throughout the year which helped provide partial scholarships for many of the participants!

Summer Lunch Club Organ Tour

The Summer Lunch Club for children, grades entering 1st - finishing 5th, will tour Central's Pipe Organ and explore how air plays an important role in our worship services. Central's Organist Leslie Peart will lead our exciting tour. Our lunch menu for the day includes: chicken fingers, apple dippers, and Jello cups. SLC meets from noon – 3:30 p.m. Children are not required to participate in every session to join SLC. Join us this week!

Central Youth

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. Registration forms are available in the Friendship Center this week.

Youth to Attend Church Camp

Trey Burrus, Mackenzie Larrick, Trey Larrick, Avery Martin, David Martin, Brad Munos, and Brittney Munos will attend Koinonia Camp at Camp Walter Scott June 26-July 1. You may send them greetings at:

Camp Walter Scott
Koinonia Camp
{Camper's Name}
15290 E. 300th Ave.
Dieterich, IL 62424

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.

Robert's Reflections

Summer is officially here! I know the air conditioners have been buzzing for almost a month or so, but today (Wednesday, June 21st) is the first day of summer and the longest day of daylight of the year. The calendar is already moving on toward another season, nature is progressing through the cycles of life, the hours of daylight are getting shorter even as you read this, and life is moving on. In another month, Joshua will be ten years-old and returning to school (the school he attends uses a balanced calendar or year-round school), and Nicholas will begin his Kindergarten year!

While we are excited about our boys growing-up, Teri and I know that our little guys will too soon be big guys and they too will be moving on. If only we had one of those remote controls like the one Adam Sandler's character uses in his new movie *Click*, then we could use the slow-motion button or the pause button to savor the moments we have with our little guys for awhile longer. Growing up can be challenging for children, especially these days, and parenting our children as they grow-up is challenging as well. An open mind and a flexible spirit are key ingredients for parental survival!

During July, we have a special opportunity to join with our sister congregation, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, and host a small group of Christians who are in the process of moving on, literally! Known as Crosswalk America, a group of ten, progressive people of faith began walking from Phoenix, AZ on Easter Sunday and plan to cross America to raise awareness to an alternative view of Christianity than that which is often portrayed in the media.

CrossWalk America is part of an emerging Christian movement - one that joyously embraces the love of God, neighbor and self (Jesus' core values). Crosswalk affirms: openness to other faiths; care for the earth and its ecosystems, valuing artistic expression in all its forms; authentic inclusiveness of all people (regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, differing ability, class or social status); opposing the commingling of Church and State, promoting the values of rest and recreation, prayer and reflection; and embracing both faith and science in the pursuit of truth (www.crosswalkamerica.org).

Central will host the walkers for two nights (July 20 & 21) while they walk near Decatur. Thursday, July 20th we will host a Potluck style dinner at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall where Dr. Eric Elnes, founder of Crosswalk America and author of *The Phoenix Affirmations*, will speak and share with those gathered for dinner. If you are interested in helping to host a walker in your home one or two of the nights, please let me know as soon as possible.

Life is moving on in our midst and our faith is too. Jesus came to make all things new, to give new and abundant life, to redeem and to renew all of us. As these days of summer move us onward toward renewed growth and bountiful harvests, may our faith in Christ be moved onward toward lives full of God's unlimited love and grace!

Peace & Joy,
Robert

Sunday Breakfast Club Menu - Sunday, June 25th

The SBC main dish for this week is Homemade Biscuits & Gravy.

Along with our main dish, fruit, yogurt, cereal, milk, juice, and coffee are available each week. SBC serves 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 costs of the breakfast.

News From the Pews....

Happy Birthday to **Frank Beaman**, who is Central's Senior Member! Frank will be 101 years young on June 22nd.

Congratulations to **Lindy Taylor-Williams & Dave Williams** of Seattle, Washington on the June 13th birth of their daughter, **Morgan Isabella**. Proud grandparents are **H.B. & Claudia Curry**.

Note of Thanks Received

I want to express my thanks to all our great ministers who came to visit me in the hospital. Thanks also to all for the visits, prayers and cards. I'm doing okay.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Smith

**Week of Compassion Update
Disciples Give Hope to Texas Communities**

Dear Week of Compassion,

I hope you realize the very significant impact the Disciples of Christ made in Southeast Texas.

Several of us had come together across the normal denominational barriers and racial barriers and had begun to work to recover from Hurricane Rita. We saw the enormous task ahead, helping thousands of our neighbors who would not otherwise recover, unless we, the faith community, worked together with them. We set a goal of helping 1000 elderly or handicapped or single parents get a roof back on their home, but we didn't see the way clear, until the Disciples of Christ responded with your check of \$100,000.

You gave us hope! You were there at the critical moment. Your gift was God saying, "I am bigger than you imagined." We knew God wanted us to work together in a big way, but we didn't yet know we could gather the resources to actually do the big work required. Your faithful gift provided the kind of foundation we needed to build the capacity needed to help our neighbors. Without your very timely and significant gift, we might have settled for too small of a vision. In neighborhood after neighborhood here in Southeast Texas, we see families empowered and recovering and pulling together to make our communities whole and wholesome again.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Harland Merriam
Pastor, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Beaumont, TX
President, South East Texas Interfaith Organization



Sunday, June 25, 2006

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Ward, Piano
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:45-Summer Breakfast Club, Great Hall
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:00-Sunday School

Monday (26)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Tuesday (27)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
11:45-Fit Lunch Club, Disciple Room
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Wednesday (28)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
12:30-3:30-Summer Lunch Club
3:30-5:30-SLC Aftercare
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Stephen Ministry, Disciple Room

Thursday (29)

10:00-Alanon, 212
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (30)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center



Counting On You	
June 18	
Worship Attendance	285
Sunday School Attendance	83

Serving Schedule—June 25, 2006

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Connie Bordner, Larry Otis

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Larry Pepper

Decatur Memorial: Pat Ash

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Tina Canfield, Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Bob Hoaglin, Joe Lewis, Gail Prince, Larry Prince, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox, Rebecca Smart

10:00 - Team 2 - Richard Ward, Capt., Cathy Ash, Jim Ash, Neil Baird, Debbie Bateman, Philip Bateman, Azalee Berner, Warren Berner, Dale Ford, Judy Ford, Alex Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Ernestine Mrozinski, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Carl Boline, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston

10:00 - Team 7 - Karen McFadin, Chad McFadin, Jon French, Jane French, Clyde Booher

Greeters:

8:00 - Morris & Willie Birkhead

10:00 - Dee Hill, Sid Rotz, Bob & Billie Harmon

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Acolytes:

8:00 - Jarrett Bednar, Sam Funk

10:00 - David Martin, Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:00 - Jordan Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Keith Backes

10:00 service only - Brett Swallow

June 28 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

June 26 9:00-12:30 - Sara Field

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

June 27 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 28 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

June 29 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore

12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 30 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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
Shelly Messmore Preschool Director
Trudy Garland, Janet Langston Preschool Teachers
Kay Villarreal, Robin White Preschool Teachers
Rudi Descaro Custodian
David Flanders Custodian
Dean Hadden Custodian
Charles Wallace Custodian

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