



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, September 14, 2005

No. 37

Day of Prayer Set

The President of the United States has proclaimed Friday, September 16 as a day of prayer for the nation. The sanctuary of Central Christian Church will be open for prayer throughout the day on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for any who wish to pray here. You can also link resources on our website at www.cccdisciples.org.

Generations of Generosity

Last Sunday, Stewardship Chair **Larry Otis** announced the beginning of Central's annual fall stewardship campaign under the theme *Generations of Generosity*. In the weeks leading up to Consecration Day on October 9, every member and friend of Central is encouraged to pray for God's guidance in preparing a generous giving plan for 2006 which expresses the depth of our gratitude to God for God's generosity to us. We need to give as an act of spiritual devotion. On October 9 in morning worship, we will prepare a giving card for 2006 and present it in dedication to God.



New Six-Week Study – The Life You've Always Wanted!

Have you ever been frustrated with the state of your spiritual life? Have you ever wondered why spiritual growth seems to go so slowly? Have you ever wondered if real change is possible? If you've ever felt confused or stuck in your spiritual life, this study may be for you! **Pastor Gretchen** will lead a new six-week study entitled "The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciples for Ordinary People" beginning on Thursday, September 22nd. To accommodate varied and busy schedules, there will be both a daytime session offered from 11:30 to 1 p.m. and an evening session from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. A minimum of 6 participants will be required for each session. Both sessions include a meal (either lunch or supper) and the study which combines group discussion and video presentation. Study books are \$10 and a donation will be accepted each week to offset the cost of the meal. Childcare will be provided in the church nursery, if needed, and children are invited to share in the meal with the group. Take a look at the study book and sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday or speak with Pastor Gretchen for more information.

Prairie Avenue Garage Sale

Prairie Avenue Christian Church will have a garage sale September 16th and 17th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale is sponsored by the Christian Women's Fellowship. Food and beverage will also be available for purchase.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**If Grace Were Fair ...
It Wouldn't Be Grace!**

Text: Matthew 20:1-16

Gretchen Barron

Congratulations, Officers!

The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee at the congregational meeting last Sunday was elected with 133 voting for the entire slate and 4 voting for selected candidates. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee: **Gail Prince**, Chair; **Barbara Beyer**, **Larry Chapman**, **Mary Jane Oliver**, **Kevin Otis**, and **Chris Fagin**, ex-officio.

Find out More About Stephen Ministry

Central members are invited to meet in the Parlor at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28th to find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister. We'll hear from those who are currently serving in this capacity, watch a short video together and have plenty of time to ask and answer questions. We'll also share some great snacks and fellowship together. We are getting ready to begin a new training class this fall and this is your opportunity to find out more about this vital ministry in our congregation. Contact our Stephen Leaders, **Carol McClure**, **Linda Kuhns** or **Pastor Gretchen** for more information.

Children & Youth News

Children's Worship This Sunday

Children's Worship will be available on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of each month during the 10:45 a.m. service. Children ages 5 yrs.-10 yrs. are invited to a special worship time after the Offertory Prayer during the 10:45 a.m. service. Children are to meet our CW Leaders in the Friendship Center. Children will be participating in morning worship on the 1st Sunday of each month beginning in October.

Youth Kick-Off This Sunday

Central Youth Kick-Off Party for grades 6-12 will be held on Sunday September 18th from 4-6 p.m. at Fairview Park. Hamburgers and Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Youth are asked to bring chips and desserts. We will hear about our plans for the Fall, play a fun match of football, and enjoy a picnic supper. Let Pastor Robert know on Sunday if you plan to attend.

Central Breakfast Café Menu

Everyone is welcome to join us for breakfast this Sunday from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Donation baskets will be available to offset the cost of the breakfast. The Central Breakfast Cafe menu includes: blueberry pancakes, pastries, yogurt, fruit, cereal, milk, juice and coffee.

CCC Monday Night Mixed Bowling League

Bowling begins September 26th at Pla Mor Lanes! Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

General Assembly Highlights

Come and watch Rev. Alvin Jackson's sermon from First Christian Church in Portland and learn about Disciples' Interfaith dialogue in the Great Hall this Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Hurricane Relief Updates

In the aftermath of Katrina, Disciples of Christ are responding to the overwhelming needs created by this historic disaster, according to Week of Compassion. Disciples are also among those in great need. Pine Bluff Christian Church in Arkansas has been receiving many of the survivors, including those first evacuated to the Super Dome in New Orleans. The Red Cross has named the church a shelter for evacuees. In direct response to the crisis, pastors Frank Goldsmith and Amy Elder of Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church in Austin, Texas, set up the Texas Interfaith Disaster Response (TIDR) which now coordinates practically all local relief efforts in Austin. Also in Texas, Todd Williams of New Covenant Christian Church has been working around the clock to assist evacuees, but also to continue working with the street youth who make up the majority of his church's membership. It is important that the 3,000 homeless youth who already sleep on the streets of Houston do not fall between the cracks as the city now absorbs what could be a drastic number of displaced persons.

Here in Decatur, efforts continue to mobilize to assist evacuees as they arrive in Central Illinois. We are beginning to hear of displaced families finding refuge in our communities and we will keep you posted as specific needs come to our attention. Pastor Gretchen and Pastor Robert are forming a Hurricane Relief Task Force with members from our local and global outreach departments to address specific needs as they come to us and to plan for our future response including trips to the Gulf coast to help with clean-up and rebuilding efforts. Many of you have already contributed financially to the American Red Cross and through Disciples' Week of Compassion to aid in the relief. Thank you, Central, for the more than \$5,720 you have contributed to Week of Compassion since this disaster struck.

The need for funds will continue for some time and we encourage you to do your part in helping in this time of need. We also encourage you to continue to do your part in supporting our many local human service agencies whose programs and facilities care for thousands of people here in our community every day and whose operation depends upon our generous support. One of the ways you can respond to this tragic event for our nation is to give your support to the evacuees and to those in our very midst who need your support as well. We can provide a list of local agencies.

Now is the Time to Register for the Women's Retreat!

Now is the time to sign up for our 2nd Annual Fall Women's Retreat. The event will take place October 21-22 at Camp One-Way (near Mt. Auburn). Our retreat leader is Claudia Grant, a nationally recognized Disciples leader. With sensitivity and spiritual insight she will guide us through the theme of *Dream On, Sisters!* The registration fee of \$60 is due upon registration. An additional gift of any amount will help subsidize program costs or provide scholarships which are available upon request. Attendance is not limited to Central members. Invite a friend or family member to enjoy this event with you. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 5th. Register today!

Thank you for Another Great Picnic!

Thank you one and all for making the church picnic such a success. Special thanks to the Fellowship Department, under the leadership and **Keith and Jeannie Backes**; thanks to the Men's Quartet – **Don Martin, Steve Jackson, Mike Sperry and Michael Brown**; to **Linda Kuhns** and crew for planning the children's activities; to all who baked cookies; to all who came early to set up tables and stayed late to help clean up; to the custodians who worked extra hours; and thanks to all of you who came and enjoyed! It was a great day!

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of *Mary Ann Parks* following her death on September 10.

Note of Thanks Received

Thank you so much for the cards, phone calls and especially your prayers during my hospital stay.

Sincerely,
Juanita Reynolds

Thank You, Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Meals on Wheels volunteers delivered 19 out of 28 routes this past week. Many thanks to the following teams: **Ed & Joy Adams, Barbara & Dallas Beyer, Mary Boyle & Chris Fagin, Judy Beaman & Dottie Scholes, Betty Chapman & Carol Withrow, HH & Hilary Critchfield, Jim DeZarn, Jody Featherstun & Joan Smith, Dale & Judy Ford, Carol & John Graham, Dean & Janet Gray, Bill & Joyce Hawks, Norma & Richard Hundley, Bob & Phyllis Logan, Kathy & Larry Pepper, Dean & Sue Simcox, Evelyn & Max Sperry, Jane Watkins & Dottie Scholes.**

If you are interested in participating in this one week, two times per year program, contact one of the above members or the church office. Thanks again. I don't know what we would do without all of our faithful volunteers!

Carolyn Pistorius, Meals on Wheels Coordinator
Dottie Scholes, Central Contact Person

Counting On You

September 11

Worship Attendance 338
Sunday School Attendance 78

During the month of August, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$40,808 which is \$7,192 below the giving goal for the month.

Expenses to operate the church in August were \$52,215 which is \$9,608 below the budget for the month but \$6,875 more than the church actually received.

So far this year, it has cost \$24,575 more to operate Central's ministries than the church has received.

All outreach commitments for August both locally and globally were paid in full.

Gifts to the *Proud of our Past... Focused on Our Future* capital campaign during August were \$9,630. The total amount remaining on our church's building debt is \$69,946.

Your regular and generous giving keeps Central going! We're counting on you! Do your best for your church so that your church can do its best for God. Detailed monthly financial reports for the congregation and the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter by the church office in the Friendship Center along with minutes of the last Church Council meeting. You can always pick up copies and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



Sunday, September 18, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Janice Mitchell,
Pianist
10:45 Offertory-Men's Chorus;
Becky Van Meter, Accompanist
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:30-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:00-Central Breakfast Cafe, Great Hall
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
4:00-6:00-Youth Group

Monday (19)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
4:00-Aerobics
7:30-Choir of Clare College Concert,
Sanctuary

Tuesday (20)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-ChristCare
4:00-Aerobics

Wednesday (21)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:30-Peace & Justice Study, 207
6:45-Fellowship Dept., Disciple Room

Thursday (22)

10:00-Alanon, 212
11:30-Spiritual Life Bible Study,
Disciple Room
4:00-Aerobics
6:00-Spiritual Life Bible Study,
Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (23)

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

Serving Schedule—September 18, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Janet Lyman, Bruce Williams

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Dallas Beyer, Mary Coate, Jane Davis, Sherri Hood, Paula Hovey, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Norm Lienemann, Larry Otis, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, David Shields, Max Sperry
 10:45 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Katie Beal, Mark Beal, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Dan Brintlinger, Nedra Brintlinger, Randy Brooks, Shirley Brooks, Deborah Foster, Larry Foster, Andy Fulk, Debra Fulk, Sarah Fulk, Dee Hill, Wayne Honeycutt, Louellen Lusk, Karen McFadin, Janice Mitchell, Kevin Morrison-Otis, Alex Otis, Andrew Rutherford, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Kim Downey, Ryan Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey
 10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Margaret Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:15 - Betty Beebe, Sherri Hood, Bev & Merle Chapman
 10:45 - Ron & Jan Dobbs, Clyde & Jean Booher

Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar
 10:45 - Sean Beal, Daniel Hinze

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter
 10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Charlie & Juanita Reynolds, Yvonne Purcell, Jan Sperry, Nancy Taylor

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
 Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing
 10:45 service only - Karen Baird

September 21 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marg Karl, Sara Field

Hosts:

Sept. 19 9:00-12:30 - Alice Brooks
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
 Sept. 20 9:00-12:30 - Betty Beebe
 12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor
 Sept. 21 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
 12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
 Sept. 22 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
 12:30-4:00 - Lilabelle Traylor
 Sept. 23 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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
Katie Beal	Childcare Coordinator
Joanne Frady, Sarah & Debra Fulk	Childcare Providers
Shelby Larrick, Bryan Rutherford	Childcare Providers
Jean Pease	Preschool Director
Trudy Garland, Janet Langston	Preschool Teachers
Shelly Messmore, Kay Villarreal	Preschool Teachers
Robin White	Preschool Teacher
Rudi Descaro	Custodian
David Flanders	Custodian
Dean Hadden	Custodian
Charles Wallace	Custodian

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