



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, August 31, 2005

No. 35



Return to Fall Schedule this Sunday

Central's traditional fall schedule resumes this week with morning worship at 8:15, church school at 9:30, and morning worship at 10:45. If you forget and arrive too early for church this Sunday, the sanctuary will be open for prayer and the church library will be available for you.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

How Not to Worry

Text: Romans 13:8-14

Charles Watkins

Miracle Day Volunteer Sign Up

Several Central folks have expressed interest in volunteering to help on-site for one of the Region's Miracle Days, October 1 (in Chicago) or October 8th (in Carbondale). All registration forms are due in the Regional Office no later than September 15th. Forms and brochures are in the Friendship Center and may be turned in to Gretchen or mailed directly to the Region. Gretchen also has information for area hotels for both locations. If anyone has young children and would need childcare for the work day, speak with **Pastor Gretchen THIS WEEK!**

ChristCare Group Begins New Study

Have you ever wondered what happens "When God Whispers Your Name?" A new ChristCare Power of Prayer study based on the book by Max Lucado will begin September 13 in Room 218 at 1:15 p.m.

This group is committed to praying regularly and intently for those in need. Each member covenants to pray at home and in the group for those named at the group meetings. If you'd like to "increase your prayer time and discipline" this is the group for you. Contact **Ernestine Mrozinski** or call the church office, 428-4336 to sign up for this class and order a book.

The Choir of Clare College Comes to Central

The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, England will present a concert of choral music on Monday, September 19, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Tickets are \$12 and are available in the church office or through www.cccdisciples.org

Under the direction of Tim Brown, the choir has toured to Russia, the Middle East, throughout Europe and the United States. The choir frequently performs in Britain's major concert halls with many of the UK's leading orchestras.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for us to hear a world class choir in our sanctuary. Make plans now to attend and bring a friend.

Handmade Greeting Cards 101

Sisters in Spirit will gather for a Greeting Card Workshop on Wednesday, September 7th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Disciple Room. Each participant will create at least 5 cards (examples are on display in the Friendship Center). Please bring sharp scissors and a glue stick or other adhesive. All other supplies will be provided. Donations are welcome to help cover the cost of materials. Childcare will be provided for young children in the nursery. Sisters in Spirit is a monthly gathering of Central women and is open to all who are interested. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday!

Congregational Meeting

The Congregation of Central Christian Church will meet briefly at the all-church picnic at noon on Sunday, September 11, for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, and a trustee for new terms of service. All members of the congregation are invited to attend and vote by secret ballot at this meeting.

You're Invited to the All Church Picnic

We hope you're making plan to attend the annual All-Church Picnic at noon on Sunday, September 11th. This year's festivities include great fellowship and food (gilled pork barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs, cole slaw, baked beans, chips, cookies and bars); games for the young and young at heart (moon bouncer, bubble wands, sidewalk chalk and more) and great, upbeat music by our own Men's Quartet. Dress casually for worship and stay for the celebration! We've put in our order for beautiful weather and now all we need is **YOUR RESERVATION!** You can sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday or call the church office (428-4336) and let us know how many chairs to set up for you and your family. The church picnic is also an excellent opportunity to invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to experience the Central Difference! Invite them to come for worship and stay for the picnic and include them in your reservation!

News for Children & Youth ALL New Children's Worship Schedule

Beginning in September, 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 each month beginning in October.

Youth Kick-Off

Plans are being made for the Central Youth Kick-Off Party on Sunday September 18th when we will begin our Fall youth program. Watch this space and your mailbox for details for CCC KIDS grades (1-5) and CENTRAL YOUTH (grades 6-12)!

ALL NEW

Central Breakfast Cafe

The Christian Education Department will sponsor breakfast from 9:00-9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings beginning on September 11th in the Great Hall. Adults, children, and youth are welcome to join us for breakfast each Sunday. Donation baskets will be available to offset the cost of the breakfast. Donations for the breakfast are not the same as the Sunday School offering, which provides funds for our education and outreach programs. Sunday School classes and volunteers will help prepare, serve and clean up after breakfast. The Central Breakfast Cafe rotating menus include: pancakes, French toast sticks, waffles, breakfast sandwiches, breakfast burritos, and biscuits and gravy. Pastries, yogurt, fruit, cereal, milk, juice and coffee will be available every Sunday. Join us for breakfast in the Great Hall at 9 a.m.

Charles Column

When Valerie Rozanski came to work at Central Christian Church on September 3, 1985, the *Central Visitor* ran her photograph (she hasn't changed a bit) and welcomed her to the church staff. The article introduced her to the congregation with her firefighter husband David as the parents of a son Tony (a freshman at Eisenhower), and two daughters, Mikalene (4th grader), and Lacey (a second grader) both at Southeast School.

Fast-forward twenty years, and Valerie is now the dean of the staff: no one here now has worked at Central longer than she has. Indeed, in the history of our congregation since 1834, there are only three or four people who ever served on our staff as long as Valerie has. Each of her children is now a parent and Valerie the young mother has become Valerie the young grandmother.

But Valerie is remarkable for more than her long and faithful tenure. She always has a smile for every one of us no matter how her day is going or how late the hour. She is smart and capable and juggles a dozen projects at a time without ever showing the stress. She is the face of Central, the first member of the staff that most people meet when they come to the church through the week. Over the years her job has expanded considerably as clerical staff has been reduced by forty per cent, and she has accepted each new responsibility with grace and a positive "can-do" attitude. I don't know anything that Valerie cannot do well. She answers the phone, takes short-hand minutes at staff meetings, writes all the checks for church and preschool, does the payroll, reconciles the bank statements, compiles and edits the *Central Visitor* each week, oversees church publications of all kinds, answers questions, protects confidences, maintains the official church calendar, sends out church letters and meeting reminders, opens the mail, helps the ministers, and does countless kindnesses and favors for church members needing help.

Valerie is a devoted member of the Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church: she used some of her vacation time this summer to teach in her church's Vacation Bible School. But she is more loyal and faithful to Central than many of our own members! She is true to all her commitments and absolutely reliable.

I am anxious for you to know how blessed we are to have Valerie serving God and each of us in our church office. As she honorably begins her twenty-first year of service, I am also anxious to have you express personally your own appreciation for all that she does for our church. Thank you, Valerie! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Charles Watkins

Read about Central

The current issue of *DisciplesWorld* magazine includes an article by Jim Cullumber about Central of Decatur and our receiving the James P. Johnson Stewardship Award from the Christian Church Foundation. You can read it online by going to www.DisciplesWorld.com, selecting "News", then "Disciples News." Look for the article "Illinois congregation receives CCF stewardship honor."

General Assembly Highlights

Begin Sunday, September 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Ruby Agnew** following the August 29th death of her sister, *Norma Goodman* in Mt. Pulaski.

A Note of Thanks

To the staff and friends at Central, Thank you so much for all your visits, prayers, concerns and cards during my surgery and recuperation at home. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. Love! Joy! Blessings!

Diane Reed

Who Do You Know That Needs a Note of Encouragement?

Once again this month, the Evangelism department is including a post card in your Sunday bulletin and encouraging you to write a personal note to someone you know without a church home, someone going through a difficult time, or someone who has gotten out of the Sunday morning habit of attending church. The card is pre-printed with Central's address, worship times and a simple "thinking of you" greeting and includes space for your personal message. We encourage you to jot down your message at church while you're thinking of it (don't forget to sign it) and then take it home to add the address and a .23 stamp before dropping it in the mail.

Sign Up for Dinner for Eight this Sunday!

Are you looking for an evening of fun, fellowship and good food, as well as a great opportunity to get to know members of your Central family? If so, then sign up this Sunday for a Dinner for Eight group. Each group decides when to meet and what to bring for an informal and enjoyable evening sometime before mid-November. The rest is magic as new friends get to know each other and old acquaintances have a chance to catch up on what's been happening. Don't miss this opportunity for a great evening out – sign up this Sunday!

Thank you from the World Outreach Department!

The World Outreach Department would like to thank EVERYONE who helped make last week's chicken dinner such a success. Special thanks to those who sold and bought tickets; to the Disciples Class and all who baked items or helped with the bake sale; to those who came early to set up; to those who planned and served and took care of every little detail; to those who gave donations and purchased shares and of course, to everyone who enjoyed their delicious chicken dinner on Sunday. Because of your help, we have now raised over \$2,100 to help purchase supplies for Miracle Days! We will continue to receive donations throughout the month of September. Thank you, one and all!

We also want to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Tools of Hope and Blankets special offering. Your generous giving of over \$1,700 will purchase tools, blankets, school supplies and more for persons throughout the world who are in need of assistance. Thank you, Central!

Giving Acknowledgments Coming Soon

Volunteers in the Contributions Office at Central are preparing grateful acknowledgements of all your gifts to the church during the first two-thirds of 2005. Late this week or early next week, all regular contributors will receive a statement of giving through August 28. Please check your statement for accuracy and be sure to see if you have given two-thirds of what you plan to give your church this year. The accumulated deficit has been coming down this summer, and you can help to reduce it or eliminate it by catching up on your giving plan.



Sunday, September 4, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Janice Mitchell,

Jan Baird, Marilyn Mertz

8:30-10:15-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:30-Sunday School

Monday (5) Labor Day

Church & Office Closed

Tuesday (6)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

9:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior

Pastor's Study

10:00-Pastors' Staff Retreat, Parlor

11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room

4:00-Women's Retreat Planning Task

Force, Volunteer Room

4:00-Aerobics

6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

Wednesday (7)

9:00-Baby Talk, 280

12:00-Central Singers

4:00-Aerobics

5:30-Quartet Practice

5:30-C.A.C.S. Dept., Disciple Room

7:00-Sisters in Spirit, Great Hall

Thursday (8)

10:00-Alanon, 212

4:00-Aerobics

5:30-Choir Appreciation Dinner,

Disciple Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

7:00-PrairieLand Investors, 212

Friday (9)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,

Great Hall/Heritage Center

Saturday (10)

7:30-Elders Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

August 28

Worship Attendance283

Sunday School Attendance 83

Serving Schedule—September 4, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Keith Backes, Pat Ash

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Janet Lyman, Larry Chapman

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 1 - Bob Wells, Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Fogerson Ropp

10:45 - Team 6 - Maxine Koenig, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

Greeters:

8:15 - Bev & Bob Dondeville, Gene & Sandy Garver

10:45 - Bob & Billie Harmon, Bruce & Carol Stoddard

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sarah Funk

10:45 - Jessica Brooks, Erik Harm

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

September 7 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Juanita Clark, Sara Field

Hosts:

Sept. 5 **Church & Office Closed**

Sept. 6 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling
12:30-4:00 - Sara Field

Sept. 7 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Sept. 8 9:00-12:30 - Charlie Harris
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Sept. 9 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders
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
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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