



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXVII

Decatur, Illinois, October 26, 2005

No. 43



This Sunday, October 30, marks the end of Daylight Savings Time. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour this Saturday evening, so you can enjoy that bonus hour of sleep before Sunday morning worship!

Sisters in Spirit Gathering November 2nd!

Make plans now to join together in the Disciples Room at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2nd for the Sisters in Spirit Gathering. The program this month will focus on Holiday Decorating and Entertaining. **Linda Kuhns** will show ideas for place settings and decorations and will instruct us in simple ways to set a unique table. She will also share ideas for cards, favors and napkin folding. Participants are invited to bring your own decorating ideas and share tips! Sisters in Spirit is a monthly gathering of Central women and is open to all who are interested. It is not a group in the traditional sense but rather an opportunity to gather around specific interests and programs. Childcare will be provided, if needed. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday!

DisciplesWorld Subscriptions

Will you help us reach our goal of 40 subscribing members to Disciples World? DisciplesWorld draws on timeless insights from scripture, theology, and informed, responsible reporting. Each monthly issue includes feature articles that explore today's relevant topics; in-depth articles about current international news and reports from around the world; articles that examine current issues facing churches; book and movie reviews; bible study; commentary; and more. All this comes to your door each month for an annual subscription of \$25. Become connected today! Look for the display in the Friendship Center where you may pick up a sample magazine and subscription form.

Help Conclude the Campaign!

The fall stewardship campaign to assure support for ministry and mission through Central in 2006 is ending this week. So far 238 families are planning to provide \$518,525 for Central next year. We need to hear from another hundred families by November 1, so that the Stewardship Department can prepare a realistic budget. If you need a Giving Card on which to record your estimate for next year, please phone the church office today so that your card can be mailed to you.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2005
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Youth Sunday
The Next Generation of Generosity

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: Cook's Choice, yogurt, fruit, cereal, milk, juice and coffee.

Central Christian Church Youth Drama Ministry Presents...

FOOLS
A Neil Simon Play

Dinner Theatre
Friday & Saturday
Nov. 11th - 12th
6:30 p.m.

Dinner Menu
Roasted Pork Loin
Baked Potato
Steamed Vegetables
Salad & Bread
Cobbler & Drinks

Sunday, Nov. 13th
2:30PM

Advance Tickets ONLY
Dinner Theatre \$12.50
Sunday Play Only \$6.00



News for Children & Youth

Youth Sunday October 30th

Children and Youth will lead us in worship for both morning services. The theme for our Service is *The Next Generation of Generosity*. During worship we will hear from youth whose families have multiple generations actively participating in the church. Central Youth will present a special gift to a local human service agency and more. Children grades 1-5 will serve as Greeters, Ushers and Acolytes. Youth grades 6-12 will lead our liturgy and music for the morning. Participants are to be at the church at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast will be available in the Great Hall from 9-9:30 a.m. If you have questions about our Youth Sunday service, please contact **Pastor Robert** or **Don Martin** at 428-4336.

Summit News

Thirteen people have registered for Summit. If you have not registered we still have space. Call or stop by and we will help you get signed up. Summit is scheduled for November 18-20 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

Robert's Reflections

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) sets aside one week each autumn to recognize and celebrate the gifts of and ministries with the youth of our church. Our celebration will include Youth led worship services on Sunday morning. Our congregation has been and continues to be blessed with many talented youth who generously give of themselves to serve God in various ways. Central youth share their musical talents in worship and serve as liturgists, deacons, ushers, greeters, and sound technicians. Our youth participate in mission opportunities such as Miracle Day and serving meals to the homeless of our area. Many of our youth give of themselves through their schools and other community organizations.

Since September, we have been celebrating the Generations of Generosity that have provided for the many ministries of our congregation, built on the foundation of faith. The youth of Central are growing in their faith and are laying the foundation of Christian stewardship of time, talents and money. They are becoming the Next Generation of Generosity for the church. Come and support them as they continue on their faith journey with you this Sunday!

Among the many ways our youth give of themselves is through the gift of drama. Several of our youth are exceptionally talented actors and actresses and have had roles in previous musicals and plays at Central, Storyteller Theatre productions, Middle School Dinner Theatres, and High School plays. In the Spring of 2004, eight of our youth presented Neil Simon's play *God's Favorite* under the direction of **Katie Beal**. The production was "top-notch!" The actors and actresses were flawless! The play was "hilarious" and a hit! **Ernestine Mrozinski** said the play was "*better than professional because I knew the actors.*" **Larry Pepper** stated that he and **Kathy**, "*both enjoyed the play and thought it was a well done production.*" Many people who attended the play told me it surpassed their expectations for youth drama and they were looking forward to a bright future for drama ministry at Central.

The future is upon us. In September, ten youth began almost daily rehearsals for another Neil Simon comedy entitled *Fools*. The play is about a Russian town that has been cursed with chronic stupidity for 200 years and a young teacher's desire to end the curse. A love story develops along the way. You are guaranteed to laugh! The show will begin with Dinner Theatres on November 11th and 12th and conclude with a matinee performance on November 13th. We present the play with special arrangement by Samuel French, Inc. of London and New York.

I am excited about Youth Sunday and *Fools* and I hope you are too! Remember our youth and all children in the world in your daily prayers. They count on us for our support and acceptance and they learn from our examples what it means when we say that we are Disciples of Christ.

Peace & Joy, **Robert**

NEW Soda Machine

A new Coca Cola Machine was recently installed in the common area between the Heritage Center and the Disciple Room on the Lower Level. The machine is stocked with a variety of 12 oz. products from Coca Cola including caffeine free cola, root beer, orange, grape and diet soda. The machine will take dollar bills and the cans sell for 60 cents with all proceeds supporting Central's Youth Ministry Fund. Bottled water will continue to be offered in the beverage refrigerator in the Great Hall for 50 cents. For those of you who prefer Pepsi Cola, we are exploring the possibility of a second machine.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **George & Patt Kuhns** following the September 29th death of George's sister, *Helen Faustine Kuhns* of Oakridge, Tennessee.....and to **Gretchen Barron** and family following the October 20th death of her uncle, *Max Barron* of Tucson, Arizona.

Note of Thanks Received

Thank you to all for the cards, calls, prayers and to the ministers for their visits while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home.

Helen Ward

Week of Compassion Update

The news from Pakistan and India in the aftermath of the October 8 earthquake only grows grimmer. The death toll in Pakistan may reach 100,000 and as many as 3 million are homeless. In India, more than 1300 people were killed and some 150,000 made homeless. The situation has been made even more perilous by ongoing aftershocks, heavy rains, mudslides and the approach of winter weather. Simply said, the situation is dire and growing more desperate each day for hundreds of thousands of people. Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS P/A) quickly moved shelter kits and family food packages to quake survivors and this effort continues. Over 100,000 people are being served by field clinics CWS has set up in hard-hit Azad Kashmir and Northwest Frontier Province. CWS P/A's focus remains on the most vulnerable survivors, especially women and children who are without food, water and shelter. In India, longtime Disciples and CWS partner, Churches Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), is assisting 10,000 of the most vulnerable quake-affected families with heavy wool blankets, clothing, tents and house reconstruction kits. This week, on behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Week of Compassion Committee acted to send an immediate grant of \$125,000 toward the CWS \$8.2 million appeal for the Pakistan/India quake. Because of the severity, magnitude and urgency of the crisis and the concern that is being voiced in many circles of donor distraction in the aftermath of the recent hurricanes and other crises, the Committee also approved a "goal" of \$300,000 that WOC might be able to provide for the relief and recovery efforts of our partners in Pakistan and India. Disciples across the U.S. and Canada have given this year to WOC in unprecedented fashion. Unprecedented. More than \$2.3 million in response to the tsunami and more than \$3 million after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Designated giving to other crises like the famine in Niger, the crisis in Darfur, etc., has also been strong, and regular giving after nine months in '05 has already exceeded undesignated giving for all of 2004. Obviously, gifts in response to the Pakistan/India earthquake are needed and, as always, will be used 100% for the relief and recovery efforts of our church partners on the ground. The gifts WOC is already receiving via mail and online are an encouragement that we might well reach this goal even on top of the phenomenal outpouring of concern and generosity our people and congregations have already shown this year to so much need and suffering in the world. If you would like to give a gift to Week of Compassion for disaster relief, please mark this on your check and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday. You may further designate your gift for earthquake or hurricane relief. Since September, Central members and friends have given more than \$7300 for Hurricane Katrina relief and have already given more than \$1000 for the earthquake in Pakistan and India through gifts to Week of Compassion. Thank you!



Sunday, October 30, 2005

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Jarrett Bednar
10:45 Offertory-Daniel Hinze
10:45 Anthem-Youth 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

9:30-Children's Music, 270

6:30-8:45-Play Rehearsal

Monday (31)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
4:00-Aerobics
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (November 1)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room
1:15-ChristCare, 218
4:00-Aerobics
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207
6:30-Play Rehearsal

Wednesday (2)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics
5:30-CACS Dept., Disciple Room
6:30-Play Rehearsal, Great Hall

Thursday (3)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics
4:30-6:00-GED Family Fun Night,
Great Hall
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts
6:30-Play Rehearsal
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (4)

8:00-12:00-Macon Co. Health Dept. Flu
Vaccinations, Disciple Room
8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
1:30-CWU World Community Day,
First Congregational Church

Saturday (5)

2:00-5:00-Play Rehearsal

Serving Schedule—October 30, 2005

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Youth

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 - Youth

Ushers:

8:15 & 10:45 - Youth

Greeters:

8:15 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Max & Evelyn Sperry
10:45 - Janet & Larry Thicksten, Jim & Lois Whitaker

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Ed & Joy Adams

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sarah Funk
10:45 - David Martin, Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

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

Preparation of Communion:

Jean & Judson Pease, Claudia Curry, Kevin Miller, Susan Woods

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes
10:45 service only - Karen Baird

November 2 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Juanita Clark, Sara Field

Hosts:

Oct. 31 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Nov. 1 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling
12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford
Nov. 2 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
Nov. 3 9:00-12:30 - Betty March
12:30-4:00 - Shirlee Johnson
Nov. 4 9:00-12:30 - Bonnie Sauer
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, Shelly Messmore Preschool Teachers
Kay Villarreal, Robin White Preschool Teachers
Rudi Descaro Custodian
David Flanders Custodian
Dean Hadden Custodian
Charles Wallace Custodian

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Counting On You

October 23

Worship Attendance 280
Sunday School Attendance 83



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

