



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, May 31, 2006

No. 20

## Casual Summer Hours Begin Sunday

Remember that Central begins its summer schedule this Sunday, June 4, with Morning Worship at 8:00 and 10:00, and Sunday School classes at 9:00. Casual dress is always appropriate at Central but is especially encouraged during the summer months. Come to church dressed for the leisure activities you are planning for the rest of the day! You'll be welcome!

## Summer Worship Schedule



## Sunday Breakfast Club

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> when our earlier worship and Sunday School hours begin for summer, the Christian Education Department will resume the Sunday Breakfast Club. This summer, children & youth classes and their parents will have the opportunity to enjoy breakfast as part of their Sunday School experience. SBC will serve breakfast from 8:45-9:15 a.m. in the Great Hall every Sunday during June, July & August. Following breakfast, children grades K-5 will meet for a *Journey through the Books of the Bible* which will teach the names and order of the books of the Bible along with some key events and characters. Youth grades 6-8 and 9-12 will meet with their classes after breakfast. Parents are welcome to stay with their child(ren) and enjoy breakfast before returning to their regular Sunday School class or stay and help with cleanup. A Young Adult/College group will meet at the tables in the Great Hall after breakfast for fellowship and discussion. The breakfast will be available on a donation bases and we will try our best to meet the needs of children with food allergies when we are made aware of the child's specific needs. Watch the Central Visitor for the SBC menu each week. Along with our main dish, fruit, yogurt, cereal, milk, juice, and coffee will be available each week. Plan now to join us for SBC this summer.

## Join the Summer Lunch Club Today

Plans are being made for a seven week Wednesday afternoon Summer Lunch Club for children grades 1-5 beginning June 7<sup>th</sup>. Our theme this Summer is *AIR it's Everywhere!* We will gather for lunch at noon followed by a variety of activities including field trips to the Decatur Airport, local parks, and possibly the WAND TV Weather Center. We will also participate in an exciting tour of Central's Pipe Organ. Lunches will be provided most weeks. SLC will meet from noon - 3:30 p.m. Aftercare will be available for children from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. with advance notice. Transportation to SLC will be provided each Wednesday upon request. Advanced reservations are required for transportation. Watch for more details very soon!

## Sign Up Now for MUSICAMP 2006!

The 2006 MUSICAMP will be June 12-16 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1329 Arbor Drive.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2006**  
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00  
**Birthday of Hope**  
Text: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15  
Charles Watkins

## Wear Red for Pentecost

This Sunday as the Christian Church celebrates the Day of Pentecost, you are invited to wear something red to celebrate the flames of the Spirit which descended upon the disciples as the Church was born. Central's Worship Department has an appliquéd dove for you to wear on your lapel or



collar as we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those who were gathered fifty days after the resurrection. Come, be part of the glad birthday of the Church this Sunday!

## Evangelism Seeds

*"And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."* (Acts 2:47b) We read in The Acts of the Apostles the story of Pentecost day when the Holy Spirit was given to God's people and the church was born. As we celebrate Pentecost this Sunday, why not invite a friend to join you in worship. You never know whose life will be transformed by the love of God because you issued a simple invitation!

## Youth Column

**Central Youth  
Sunday, June 4th  
Central Youth Grades 6-  
12  
3-6 p.m.**

Central Youth will celebrate the end of the school year with a picnic at Fairview Park on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring a lawn chair. Bring your bike if you want to join Pastor Robert for a bike ride on the Fairview Park trail. We will also have a variety of sports equipment available for your fun as well.

### **Wednesday/Thursday Night Specials Back for 2006**

Central Youth (grades entering 6<sup>th</sup> - finishing 12<sup>th</sup>) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. A full schedule will be available soon. We will enjoy supper off the grill, basketball, volleyball, badminton, croquet, bocce ball, movies and swimming. Central Youth will not meet on Sunday afternoons from June through August.

### **Children's Worship Will Recess for Summer**

Our Children's Worship ministry during our second worship service for children ages 5-10 will recess for the summer months. We will resume in September.

Thanks to: **Teri Bushey, Christine Lyman-Harm, Kim Miller, Katie Powers, Janet Thicksten** for staffing the program for 2005-2006!

## Charles's Column

Except for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, there is no miracle of our faith more amazing or better attested than the birth of the Christian Church at Pentecost, fifty days after the resurrection.

The message of our faith was Jesus himself in his very flesh and blood, in his words, in his attitudes, in his actions, in his witness to the love of God. But when Jesus was executed as an enemy of the State, it looked as if that message had been obliterated since, after all Jesus was the Word of God made flesh. Only on the third day and in the forty days after that, did it become apparent that the Jesus movement was more than the human being who was the very Word of God. As the disciples were uplifted and encouraged and received the Holy Spirit from the risen Lord, it began to look as if the Jesus movement had legs after all.

But then, on the fortieth day after Easter (last Thursday), Jesus ascended into heaven, and again it was questionable whether all that he did and said would last longer than the witness of those who had become convinced that God had nullified the World's cruel denial by giving new life to Jesus.

Ten days later, all the Christian believers in the world were gathered in a single room in Jerusalem, and a mysterious and mystical event occurred that transformed the Jesus movement into an institution that has survived two hundred centuries and become one of the great religions of the world.

Jesus never wrote anything, and nothing that was written about him in his lifetime or in the first twenty years after his death survives. And yet, in every great city of the world, huge monuments and mission stations with tall steeples and small reach toward God attesting to the truth and value of what Jesus did and said.

So how did the belief of one hundred twenty people gathered fifty days after the resurrection in Jerusalem evolve into a civilization-changing institution that has a billion adherents around the globe today and billions more stretching back across two hundred centuries? The answer is Pentecost. Or more accurately, the answer is the Holy Spirit of God who on Pentecost descended upon the gathered believers and transformed their lives with a faith, conviction, and passion that is still contagious and convincing in our own amazingly different world.

Do we understand exactly what happened and how it happened? Hardly. But the evidence that it did happen is incontrovertible. Every church you drive past in any town, village, or city anywhere in the world is testimony to that amazing event on Pentecost.

You and I would not be Christians today without Pentecost. This great festival of our faith is not recognized in the secular culture. There will be no Pentecost ads or promotions on TV or in the stores to mark this season. No, this one still belongs exclusively to the Church.

One of our elders wisely commented to me recently that Central really ought to make more of the Pentecost celebration. He is quite right. Plan to make this vital and holy day really special in your life this Pentecost Sunday by showing up at your church wearing a splash of red to give God thanks and praise and to commit yourself afresh to the mission that Jesus entrusted to us, to increase among all people the love of God and every person all over the world.

*Charles Watkins*

## News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Daryl Trusty**, son-in-law of **Bill & Joyce Hawks** and husband of **April (Hawks) Trusty**. Daryl received his degree in Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine on May 27<sup>th</sup> from Virginia State University.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Fred Spannaus** and family following the May 24<sup>th</sup> death of his father in Seattle, WA.....to **Loren Glasscock** following the death of his wife, **Shirley A. Glasscock** on May 24<sup>th</sup>.....and to **Jim & Pamela Bednar** and family following the death of Jim's mother, *Rosemary E. Bednar* on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Fish Can't Fly – This Sunday

Central's Peace & Justice Task Force invites you to our next film in our series this Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall. The film is *Fish Can't Fly* and is 80 minutes long. Taking a secular point of view, the documentary explores the lives of gay men and women of faith as they recall their journeys to put their sexuality and spirituality in harmony. The Rev. John Biedler, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, will be our guest discussion leader for the evening. Desserts will be provided during the film.

## Week of Compassion Responds Across the Globe

Wherever there is a disaster or a need throughout the world, our church responds through Week of Compassion. Week of Compassion, supported by your gifts, reaches out around the world and around the year to show the love of God given in gifts that help people rebuild their lives.

You can now see just how wide-spread our response is through Week of Compassion. Check out the new Interactive Week of Compassion map on the Friendship Center bulletin board (by the women's restroom). Each week throughout the year, the map will be updated with pins placed in the new locations where WOC has responded, either to disaster relief or development needs and a printed update will be posted. Check it often and by the end of the year, you will be able to see how Central and other congregations have helped to cover the world with compassion. Week of Compassion ... around the world – around the year!

## Disciples Class Begins New Study June 11<sup>th</sup>

The Bible records many instances when God asked people to walk with him. Perhaps the most unforgettable walk of all was Peter's walk when he stepped out of a boat one stormy night and walked on the water. In this study John Ortberg uses Peter's walk to illustrate an invitation to everyone who, like Peter, wants to step out in faith and experience more of the power and presence of God. Water-walking is a picture of doing, with God's help, what we could never do on our own. The Disciples Class invites anyone interested to join us in this six-week study as we use video, scriptures and discussion to see where God is calling us "to walk on water." The sessions will be co-taught by **Coleen Myers** and **Randy Brooks**. The Disciples Class meets downstairs to the right of the Heritage Center each Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

## Note of Thanks Received

Thank you to all the Central members and friends for your care, concern and prayers following our accident last week. Your concern was greatly appreciated.

*Dan & Nedra Brintlinger*



## Sunday, June 4, 2006

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Chancel Bells  
8:15 Anthem-Central Singers  
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Marilyn Ward, Piano; Kaylene Beal, Bass  
8:45-9:15-Summer Breakfast Club, Great Hall  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Lucy Acheson  
9:00-Sunday School  
11:15-New Member Dinner, Great Hall  
3:00-Youth Picnic, Fairview Park  
5:30-Peace & Justice Film, Great Hall  
6:00-CCC Friends Young Adult Group, Charlie & Nicole Ropp's House

## Monday (5)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

## Tuesday (6)

9:00-ChristCare Stitcher, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study

## Wednesday (7)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
12:00-3:30-Summer Lunch Club  
3:30-5:30-SLC Aftercare  
12:00-Central Singers  
6:30-Fellowship Dept., Disciple Room

## Thursday (8)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
5:30-Youth Thursday Night Special, Robert Bushey's House  
6:00-Women's Retreat Planning, Volunteer Room  
7:00-Prairieland Investors, 212  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (9)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

## Saturday (10)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

## Counting On You

### May 28

Worship Attendance .....286  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 75

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**Serving Schedule—June 4, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:00 - Bob Smith, Wayne Honeycutt

**Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:**

Larry Thicksten, Chris Fagin

**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 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe  
10:00 - Team 9 - Bruce, Carol, Allison, Jessica, Maggie Stoddard

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Steve & Juanita Ballance, Bob & Wanda Webb  
10:00 - Jim, Myra, Meagan, Daniel Hinze

**Parish Nurse:** Lucy Acheson

**Acolytes:**

8:00 - Brad Munos  
10:00 - David Martin

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Greg Carter  
10:00 - Jordan Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

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

**Van Drivers:**

8:00 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams  
Sunday School and 10:00 service - Kevin Wilmot  
10:00 service only - Karen Baird

**June 7 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Juanita Clark, Sara Field

**Hosts:**

June 5 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman  
12:30-4:00 - Joy Adams

June 6 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 7 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith  
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

June 8 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 9 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King  
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

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650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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