



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, June 28, 2006

No. 24

Helping Our Neighbors in Need

Through generous contributions throughout the year, the Central Emergency Fund provides emergency assistance for individuals and families who find themselves in times of need. Through gifts such as assistance with prescription medicines, transportation assistance and a variety of other types of gifts, Central reaches out to our neighbors through the fund. Working closely with agencies such as the Macon Assistance eXchange (MAX) program, the Good Samaritan Inn (soup kitchen), the Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry, the Oasis Day Center, DOVE, and Catholic Charities, Central works with persons in need or in crisis. The Emergency Fund exists completely through donations from members and friends of Central. This Sunday, July 2nd and next Sunday, July 9th we will receive a special offering for the Emergency Fund. Envelopes are provided in the pew pockets. Please, consider this vital outreach ministry for our neighborhood and wider community with a gift to the fund. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of people right here in Decatur.

Mid-year Check-up

Now that one half of this year is completed, please check your giving records to make sure you have given one half of all you plan to give for operating our church in 2006. The financial health of our congregation, which appeared exactly in line with our budget plan during the first third of this year, has deteriorated significantly in May and June. If you find that you are a little behind in what you planned to give in the first half of the year, you can give our church a real boost in July and relieve some anxiety about our ongoing mission of witness and service.

All-Church Mission Luncheon on July 16th!

Everyone is invited to join the Honduras Mission Trip Participants for a Taco Salad Bar Luncheon at 11:15 a.m. (immediately following 2nd Service) on Sunday, July 16th. We'll share a delicious summer luncheon together, see pictures from the Honduras Trip and share in the stories and excitement of Central's

members who recently spent eight days in Tegucigalpa, Honduras working with our Global Mission Partners, Bruce and Linda Hanson. Plan now to come and share in the excitement! Sign-ups begin this Sunday in the Friendship Center.



SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2006
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Liberty Enlightening
the World

Text: James 1:19-25
Charles Watkins

Last Day for Directory Photos

Monday, July 10, is make up day for church directory photos. Photos will be taken 2 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the church, provided that we have at least 25 appointments. If you have not yet had your picture taken for the new directory, please call the church office (428-4336) to schedule an appointment. Also, please let the office know if you need transportation. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of our church family's new pictorial directory!

Sunday Breakfast Club Menu - Sunday, July 2nd

The SBC main dish for this week is Cinnamon Rolls and Danishes.

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.

Evangelism Seeds

Did you know that during the course of a year, barely one-third of all adults (in churches) make an effort to share their religious faith with others? Good News is for sharing! Invite someone to church this week.



Central Youth

Wednesday/Thursday Night Specials

Central Youth (grades entering 6th - finishing 12th) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, for our next gathering on July 6th. We will enjoy supper off the grill, and swimming. Future dates include July 19th, August 2nd & 17th. Central Youth will not meet on Sunday afternoons from June through August.

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. Cost for the trip is \$35 per person. Registration forms are available in the Friendship Center this week.

Decatur Celebration Parking

Central youth will park cars at National City Bank at the corner of Eldorado Street and Main Street during the Decatur Celebration. Speak to **Pastor Robert** or **Don Martin** to sign up for the hours you are available to work. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and will provide scholarships for summer activities.

Charles's Column

Last Sunday was another big anniversary in my life. Forty-five years ago on June 25 I became a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). That event changed the course of my life and shaped much of my future.

If we date the history of our denomination from the famous handshake on New Year's Day in 1832 in Lexington, Kentucky, between Barton W. Stone (representing the "Stone-ites" who thought followers of Jesus should be called simply Christians) and Raccoon John Smith (representing the "Campbell-ites" who thought followers of Jesus should be called simply Disciples), then our church is just 174 years old. And that means I have been a part of this body for one fourth of its entire existence.

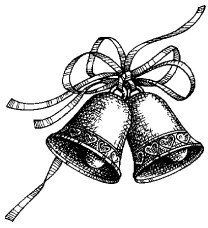
For generations, my family had been part of a tradition within the Campbell-Stone movement that forbade musical instruments of any kind in worship. I recall one spirited argument over whether it could be permitted for the song leader to use a pitch pipe or even a tuning fork. After all, once you start down that road, pretty soon you'll have thirty-two ranks of pipes and full blown apostasy! It also forbade significant architecture, stained glass windows, and in our particular branch even Sunday School. After all, once you start down that road, it might be possible for a woman to be asked to teach, and that would be unscriptural, so one had best not start down that road. I grew up believing that the world was a totally corrupt and evil place, and the sooner the curtain was rung down on history, the better. I understood that no other persons outside our little sect had any slim chance of going to heaven and that no female person could speak out loud or hold any office in church. And I was convinced that all other brands and names of types and conditions of Christianity through all the ages were completely wrong about scripture and Jesus and salvation.

Then came my teen-age encounter with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Since our founders (one favoring the name Christian and the other favoring the name Disciples) could not agree on a name for this church, we just stuck them both together and put one of them in parenthesis. That is a quite typical move among us as a church. If we cannot agree on an issue, we simply recognize that there is probably some truth in both positions, and we just stick the two ideas together and live with them both. We never insist on uniformity of opinion about anything except the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

At an impressionable age, I found myself in a Disciples congregation that had stunning instrumental and choral music at every service, sunshine streaming through stained glass windows, Spanish renaissance architecture, openness and acceptance of other Christian traditions, a love of the world and its beauty, a commitment to serving the world and making it a better and more just and peaceful place, and a strong and convincing belief in the amazing grace of God. I discovered that God's aim and purpose is to save us all, not to condemn us all as I had previously understood.

And now after all these decades, I celebrate in my heart and give thanks to God every June 25 for the unfathomable providence that brought me the rich blessings of life in what Robert Welsh calls "our nifty little church." And I am glad you are part of this church with me!

Charles Watkins



News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Brian King & Anna (Burke) King**, who were married June 17 in St. Louis, Missouri. Brian is the son of **Nancy King** and the late **Paul King** of Springfield, Illinois. Grandparents are **Harold & Bess King**.

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.



Dreamers in Indianapolis!

Of the almost 3500 participants in last week's Mix in '06 in Indianapolis, six were from Central in Decatur. Pictured above are **Ernestine Mrozinski, Susan Bryant, Gretchen Barron, and Lois Whitaker**. Also attending were **Katie Miller and Jane Watkins**. With music and preaching, prayer and dance, workshops and mission, participants came together to "*Dream on, Sisters*" and were challenged to make their dreams realities. More than 200 workshops were offered with topics ranging from facing unresolved grief to puppet making and to relationships and spiritual concerns. Social and justice issues include immigration and refugees, women's and children's concerns both in the U.S. and abroad, as well as topics from the daily news.

Counting On You

June 25

Worship Attendance255
Sunday School Attendance 79



Sunday, July 2, 2006

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Gretchen Barron
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:45-Summer Breakfast Club, Great Hall
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic, Jane Latshaw
9:00-Sunday School

Monday (3)

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

Tuesday (4th of July)

Church & Office Closed

Wednesday (5)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-3:30-Summer Lunch Club
12:00-Central Singers
3:30-5:30-SLC Aftercare
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

Thursday (6)

10:00-Alanon, 212
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Youth Thursday Night Special, Pastor Robert's house
6:00-Decatur Needle Arts Potluck, Great Hall
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (7)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics, Great Hall/Heritage Center
6:30-Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday (8)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room
2:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Buffi Charron & Robert Kaufman



Serving Schedule—July 2, 2006

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Kevin Wilmot, Linda Kuhns

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Randy Brooks & Brett Swallow

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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Kim Downey, Ryan Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey

10:00 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Margaret Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin, Brenda & Don Tankersley

10:00 - Jim & Lois Whitaker, Carroll & Doris Little

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:00 - Brad Munos

10:00 - Erik Harm

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:00 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Brenda & Don Tankersley, Bill & LeEtta Bass, Pam Larrick, Jane Latshaw, Hazel Perry

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Doug Soebbing

10:00 service only - Richard Ward

July 5 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Juanita Clark, Sara Field

Hosts:

July 3 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

July 4 **Church & Office Closed**

July 5 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

July 6 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson

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

July 7 9:00-12:30 - Bonnie Sauer

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

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 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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