



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, August 2, 2006

No. 29

## FunTimers on the Go to Rockome Gardens!

The FunTimers, Central's on-the-go group of adults age 55+, will travel to Arcola's Rockome Gardens on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll spend time at the current exhibit, *Passing on the Comfort: A Traveling Quilt Exhibit from the Mennonite Central Committee*. This exhibit features 18 quilts and comforters sent to the Netherlands nearly six decades ago to provide aid and comfort to those fleeing the ravages of war. The display tells the story of a woman and her family, whose home was used as a "safe house" by the Dutch resistance movement during and after World War II. We will also eat lunch at the new "Days Gone By" restaurant which recalls the 1940's era and spend casual time in the beautiful gardens and many quaint shops, exhibits and demonstrations. Shops and exhibits include a Soda Fountain, Candy Store and Bakery, a Five & Dime, Blacksmith, Saw Mill, Fishing Pond, Farm House, Schoolhouse and train and buggy rides. The Amish Farm Market will also be open that day. Admission to the Gardens is just \$4 for seniors. Lunch is on your own, but you receive a 20% discount with a current church bulletin (which we can arrange!). The van will leave Central at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> and will return before 5 p.m. You may sign up in the Friendship Center or call the church office to reserve your place on the van. You won't want to miss this fun trip!

## Health Education Workshop – August 9<sup>th</sup>!

Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. in the Disciple Room, there will be a presentation about Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) by Kathy Heer, Executive Director. Through Kathy's fun and humorous talk, you will learn about services that are available through VNA as well as current funding and "signs and symptoms" of a good candidate who could benefit from VNA services. This event is free and open to the public and will last approximately 1 hour. Please plan on attending this informative presentation. You won't want to miss it!

## Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>!

We invite you to come and enjoy lunch with Central's fellowship group for those at least 55 years young! We will meet at noon on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> in the Great Hall. This month's menu is a Cottage Cheese and Chicken Salad Fruit Plate and Dessert. The food is lovingly prepared with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, our own **Bruce Stoddard** will present the History of the Parke Warehouses and Family in Decatur. To sign up, please call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. Reservations cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2006**  
**WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00**  
**Satisfying Your Hunger**

Text: John 6:24-35  
Charles Watkins

## Sunday Breakfast Club Menu - Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

The SBC main dish for this week is Waffles. 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 summer. Donations are accepted each week to help offset the costs of the breakfast.

## Ladies Night Out August 15<sup>th</sup>

Women and friends of Central are invited to join together for Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. We'll gather at O'Charley's in Forsyth for a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, great food, door prizes and laughter! We have the North Room reserved and hope to fill it with Central's women and friends. You will be able to order off the menu and have separate checks (15% gratuity will be added). Bring your grown daughter, or mother or friend for a great evening out. Please sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the Friendship Center or call the church office so we can confirm our reservation! See you on the 15<sup>th</sup>!

Ladies Night Out



## Youth Column

### Central Youth Wednesday/Thursday Night Specials

Central Youth (grades entering 6<sup>th</sup> - finishing 12<sup>th</sup>) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, for our last summer mid-week supper and swimming gathering on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Feeding the Hungry

Central Youth will help serve lunch at the Good Samaritan Inn on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at the church at 10:30 a.m. and transport supplies to the inn. We will be working with our Hunger Relief Team until 1:30 p.m.

### Camping Trip Registrations Last Chance

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to travel to Spencer, Indiana for a three-night, camping trip to McCormick's Creek State Park. Forms are available in the Friendship Center and are due back by Sunday. Contact Pastor Robert today if you want to join us.

### Sunday School Teachers Needed!

The Christian Education Department needs two teachers to team teach the grades K-2 Sunday School Class beginning this September. Curriculum and supplies are provided. Classes meet for 45 minutes before joining with the other grade levels for a closing session and parent pick up. If you are interested in helping with our grades K-2 Sunday School class, please contact Pastor Robert.

## Charles's Column

I am shocked and horrified at the daily violence across Israel's border with the Palestinians on the west and the Lebanese on the north. I fervently believe in Israel's right to exist as a nation and in our government's strong support of Israel, but I do not believe that Israel is doing right by her neighbors or by her own ideals. I do not believe that our support of Israel can be uncritical, especially when most of the victims of the current violence are not Israel's enemies but are instead innocent Muslims and Christians caught in the cross-fire. I am unable to see that those on either side are doing the right thing. I am heart-broken by the suffering of innocents, by the slaughter of children and refugees, by the destruction of communities bombed by American-made jets and missiles, and by the assault on the Holy Land by those who want to destroy Jews, the blood relatives and even the home town folks of our Lord Jesus. I feel powerless to do anything helpful as missiles and bombs destroy families and communities and possibilities on both sides of the current conflict.

So let me address the one little part of this catastrophe that I am certain about. There are Christians in our land who are rejoicing at the current devastation, believing quite wrongly that this conflict heralds the Battle of Armageddon, the apocalyptic end of the world, and the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. One of my professional hobbies is the study of Jewish-Christian apocalyptic tradition, and the Book of Revelation in particular. I love this literature and its purpose of encouraging persons of faith in the face of persecution. But there are few aspects of our faith that are more terribly misunderstood.

And so I say to those who are excited by the slaughter in the Middle East, thinking that it will hasten the coming of our Lord: "Shame on you! Our violence and folly do not influence God to take any action except to mourn our foolishness and cruelty."

To those who think that human beings can do anything to hasten the Day of the Lord, I say "Our mighty God does not depend on us to decide when to bring history to an end."

To those who believe that current events are spelled out in the Bible, I want to point out that the "wars and rumors of wars" in the Book of Revelation refer to events well known and contemporary in the life of the author. The earthquakes and tidal waves and volcanoes and conflicts that spill across the pages of our newspapers are not fulfillments of ancient prophecies. They are just reminders that so much in our world is exactly as it was late in the first century when St. John the Divine on the Island of Patmos wrote the last book in our Bible. Our world is remarkably like John's world. He told the truth of God's reign to his generation exactly as he tells it to ours. Everything he wrote made perfect sense to his first audience, and none of it was gibberish that makes sense only to our generation.

My friends, we worship a God who is love. The continuing tragedy of Middle Eastern politics grieves and offends God even more deeply than it distresses us. But God doesn't make divine plans based on what humanity does to further disgrace itself.

*Charles Watkins*

### Note of Thanks

A big thank you to each and everyone of my friends that came to help me celebrate at my 90th birthday reception. I treasure your friendship more than you will ever know. God bless you all for helping make my day complete.

Your friend in Christ, **Roe Skidmore**

## Note of Thanks Received

A special thank you to the ministers and others for your concern, prayers, visits and cards during my hospitalization. All were appreciated very much.

Sincerely, **Howard Cravens**

## They Kept Us Going!

Many thanks to the dear volunteers who gave hours and true dedication to keep Central's office going during the absence of both our able administrative secretaries last week. Answering phones and greeting visitors and solving problems, these volunteers relieved the pastors so that they could keep doing what we need them to do. Special thanks of the congregation go to **Shirley Swarhout, Judy Ford, Evelyn Sperry, Joan Smith, Barbara Tyler, Ernestine Mrozinski, and Carol Graham** who took four to six hour shifts at the front desk in the office. Thank you from all of us!



## CrossWalk America Walkers Enter Ohio

The core walkers (pictured above when they visited Central in July) from CrossWalk America will enter Ohio this week after traveling through Indiana last week. The walk continues toward a celebration in Washington DC on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anyone interested in traveling to Washington for the celebration should contact Pastor Robert or visit [www.crosswalkamerica.org](http://www.crosswalkamerica.org)

## One Church One School Update

The Public Schools Task Force will be meeting soon with staff from Hope Academy Accelerated School to begin determining the needs of the students and faculty of the school. Central has been linked with Hope Academy through the One Church One School Ministry. A core group of thirteen volunteers from Central were introduced to the ministry in May and will be meeting later in August. Classes have already begun for the students in Kindergarten through eighth grade at Hope, which uses a balanced calendar traditionally known as year-round school. If you are interested in joining this exciting new ministry, please speak to Pastor Robert.

## Counting On You

**July 30**

Worship Attendance ..... 308  
Sunday School Attendance.....84



## Sunday, August 6, 2006

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services  
Music:Offertory-Carla & Jan Baird,  
Duet; John Baird, piano  
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
8:45-Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic, Cindy  
Soebbing  
9:00-Sunday School

## Monday (7)

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

## Tuesday (8)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207  
9:30-1:30-Pastors' Planning Retreat  
5:00-CADV, Great Hall or Disciple Rm

## Wednesday (9)

10:30-Health Education Program,  
Disciple Room

12:00-Elderberries, Great Hall

12:00-Central Singers

1:15-POP ChristCare, 218

## Thursday (10)

10:00-Alanon, 212

5:30-Peace & Justice Meeting,  
Disciple Room

7:00-Prairieland Investors, 212

7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (11)

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

9:30-Fun Timers Trip to Rockome  
Gardens

## Saturday (12)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

## Evangelism Seeds

When you bring a guest with you to church, don't forget to bring them to the Welcome Center following the service. One of our Elders will be there to meet them, get some information from them, and give them a gift bag with information and goodies from Central.

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**Serving Schedule—August 6, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:00 - Chris Fagin, Pat Ash

**Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:**

Connie Bordner & Bob Smith

**Deacons:**

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Tina Canfield, Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Bob Hoaglin, Joe Lewis, Gail Prince, Larry Prince, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox, Rebecca Smart

10:00 - Team 2 - Richard Ward, Capt., Cathy Ash, Jim Ash, Neil Baird, Debbie Bateman, Philip Bateman, Azalee Berner, Warren Berner, Dale Ford, Judy Ford, Alex Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Ernestine Mrozinski, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarhout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

**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, Donna Strong

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Clark & Mary Waldmier, Dean & Janet Gray

10:00 - Bruce & Carol Stoddard, Wayne Honeycutt, Pamela Ferguson

**Parish Nurse:** Cindy Soebbing

**Acolytes:**

10:00 - Joshua Bushey

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:00 - Jordan Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

Chloe & Robert Hoaglin, Carole Holbrook, Carrie & Steve Funk, Maxine Koenig

**Van Drivers:**

8:00 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Bruce Williams

10:00 service only - Karen Baird

**August 9 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

**Hosts:**

Aug. 7 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Aug. 8 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris

12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Aug. 9 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

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

Aug. 10 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling

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

Aug. 11 9:00-12:30 - Bess & Harold King

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

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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  
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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