



The Central Visitor

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

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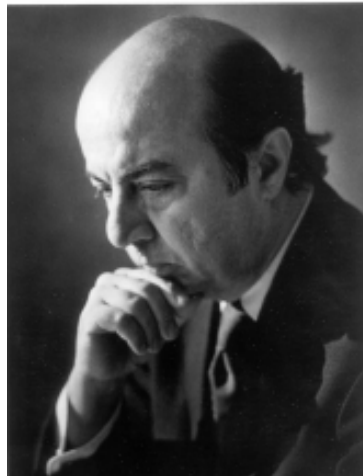
Don't Forget the All-Church Picnic this Sunday!

If you've not yet signed up for the All Church Picnic this Sunday, September 10th, please do so today by calling the church office at 428-4336. Plan to dress casually for worship and stay for the celebration as we join together for great food, fellowship and other activities on the west church lawn immediately following second service. Games for the young and young-at-heart include a moon bouncer, bubble wands, sidewalk chalk and more. **Matt Swarthout** will provide wonderful saxophone music and we've put in our order for beautiful weather. During the picnic, we will have a short congregational meeting to elect new trustees, deacons, deacons emeriti, elders and executive officers. Plan now to join your church family on Sunday!

Steinway Concert

One year after his first appearance in concert at Central, Steinway artist **Aldo Mancinelli** returns to our sanctuary to play an exciting program this Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Mancinelli is internationally acclaimed and widely recognized for his energetic and powerful presentations of masterworks for the piano.

The concert is free and open to all thanks to the **Lyle and Minnie Campbell Memorial Fund** at Central which is sponsoring the event. Refreshments will be served in the Friendship Center following this exciting performance.



It's Time to Register for the One-Room School!

Actually, it's time to sign up for Elderberries! At next week's luncheon at noon on September 13th, guests from the Macon County Conservation District will present a program about the one-room school. Do you remember what school was like in the old days? Learn about one-room schools, teachers' duties, lessons and student life. Before the presentation, the bell will ring for a delicious lunch of ham salad on a croissant, macaroni salad, sliced tomatoes, Jello salad with pineapple and mandarin oranges and peach cobbler. This monthly luncheon is for Central's members and friends age 55 and older. As always, the food is lovingly prepared by volunteers in our own kitchen. The cost is just \$3 per person. Everyone is welcome, but you must make reservations before 5 p.m. on Monday, September 11th. Please sign up on the registration pad on Sunday or call the church office at 428-4336. So be sure to register and don't be tardy; attendance will be taken! If you need a ride, let us know and we'll send *the bus*.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Be Strong, Do Not Fear

Text: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Charles Watkins

Return to Fall Schedule, 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.

Congregational Meeting

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

Giving Acknowledgments Mailed

Late last week volunteers in the Contributions Office at Central prepared grateful acknowledgements of all your gifts to the church during the first two-thirds of 2006. All regular contributors should have received a statement of giving through August 27. If not, a phone call to the church office will bring one to you this week. 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 operating deficit which was whittled down by your generosity in July is on the rise again. Please help if you can.

**Central Youth
Sunday, September 10th
Central Youth Grand Prix**

Youth grades 6-12 and their friends are invited to the CCC Youth Grand Prix at Pla Mor Recreation Center behind the bowling alley for Go-Karting fun. We will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. and return by 7 p.m. Bring \$3 and a friend.

Sunday, September 17th

Central High School Youth are welcome to attend the Peace & Justice film, *Crash in the Great Hall* at 6 p.m. The award winning film which is rated 'R' carries a strong message about the pervasiveness of racism in our society. Youth attending without parents present will need a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian. Permission slips are available in the church office. A discussion session will be held after the film.

Youth Sponsors Meeting

Central Youth Sponsors will meet on **Tuesday, September 12th** at 7:00 p.m. to work on our fall calendar and plans for Youth Sunday, which is scheduled for October 29th.

CCC Bowling League Sign-ups

Sign up this week for the Central Christian Church Monday Night Mixed Bowling League. Our non-sanctioned league will play for 16 weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 18 at Pla Mor Lanes. A league meeting is set for Monday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the bowling alley. The cost is \$9 per night plus shoes if you need them. The league is open to all high school youth and adults. Substitute bowlers are also needed. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday, or call or email Pastor Robert at 428-4336 or at rbushey@cccdisciples.org

Charles's Column

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001, the images of that disaster are still quite fresh in our memories and in the local movie theaters. Over and over we have had opportunities to experience and express our grief—our shock and disbelief, our anger, our desire for revenge, our deep sadness at the losses of life and liberty that have followed in the wake of the devastation.

This Sunday in our worship services (back at their normal times, remember), you will have the opportunity to join in a litany of commemoration as we light a candle in remembrance for all those who suffered and died in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia on that sad day.

As we move toward the anniversary, I invite you to pray with me from one of my most frequent resources, the *Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church, 1979:

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us, through Jesus your son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.

For Our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Peace Among Nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Charles Watkins

Children's Worship Resumes Sunday, September 10th

Children's Worship for children ages 5-10 yrs. will resume on Sunday, September 10th during 10:45 a.m. worship. Children are invited to meet in the Friendship Center following the Prayer of Dedication for the Offering. Children's Worship will meet each Sunday with the exception of the 1st Sunday of the month.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family and friends of **Kathleen Harrington**, our neighbor across the street from the church, who worshipped with us most Sundays and was a past president of the Keystone Class, following her death on Saturday, September 2.

One Church One School Update

Central's One Church One School (OCOS) Ministry met at Hope Academy recently to continue developing our relationship with the school. We were joined by members of Prairie Avenue Christian Church who will be partnering with us in this new ministry. Currently, we are being asked to provide mentors for several students ranging from Kindergarten to Fifth grade. Mentors foster relationships with children to help them identify and develop their potential academically, socially and personally. Mentors may meet their child during school hours or as arranged outside of school hours. If you are interested in serving as an OCOS Mentor for a child, please contact **Pastor Robert** as soon as possible. We are also working on providing bulbs for fall planting so that each student will have the opportunity to help in the campus beautification project.

Dessert & DVD Series to Show *Crash*

A Sunday evening Dessert and DVD series is being co-sponsored by the Peace and Justice Task Force and the Peacemaking Committee of 1st Presbyterian Church. Each film will be followed by discussion. Please join us for our first film, *Crash*, on Sunday evening, September 17, at 6:00, in the Great Hall. Rev. Jim Montgomery, pastor of 1st Pres, will lead the discussion following this film. Dessert will be provided. This first film in the series is an R rated film, and is not suitable for young children.

Central Women Invited to Smart Women-Smart Money Conference

Central women have been invited to the Smart Women-Smart Money Conference in Springfield on Wednesday, October 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Those who attended the conference two years ago were very impressed with the quantity and quality of information offered during the day. The conference is sponsored by the Smart Women-Smart Money Educational Foundation with support from Illinois State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka. Topics include Financial Building Blocks, Disaster Planning, Health Awareness and more. The conference and luncheon are FREE, however space is limited and reservations need to be made by Sunday, September 17th. Let Gretchen know if you are interested. We can carpool or take the church van, if necessary.

Sunday School Promotion September 10

All children and youth classes will be promoted to their new grade levels on Sunday, September 10th. Classes meet from 9:30-10:15 a.m. with closing activities including snacks at 10:15 a.m. Parents are asked to pick up their children no later than 10:30 a.m. so our teachers may participate in worship.

Classes currently available:

Toddlers & Pre-K (Nursery) **Mrs. Katie Beal & Co.**

Kindergarten - Second (Rm 240) **Mrs. Melinda Hawbaker**

Third - Fifth (Rm 260) **Mrs. Christine Lyman-Harm**

Middle School (6-8 Rm 290) **Mr. York Powers**

High School (9-12 Rm 280) **Mr. Mark Beal**



Sunday, September 10, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Bill Moutray, Baritone;
Marilyn Mertz, Piano

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir

9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw

9:30-Sunday School

11:15-Children's Worship, 250

12:00-All Church Picnic, west lawn

4:00-Aldo Mancinelli Concert, Sanctuary

5:30-Youth, PlaMor Go Karts

Monday (11)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

Tuesday (12)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting

3:00-Mid East Dialogue Planning, Parlor

5:00-CADV Meeting, Great Hall

5:30-Worship Dept., Parlor

6:00-Hurricane Recovery, Volunteer Rm.

7:00-Youth Sponsors, 280

Wednesday (13)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280

12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall

12:00-Central Singers

1:30-3:00-Low Vision Support, Disc. Rm.

2:00-Ecumenical Assist. Comm., Parlor

5:30-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Room

6:30-Shepherding Dept., Volunteer Rm.

Thursday (14)

10:00-Alanon, 212

7:00-Prairieland Investors, 212

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (15)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

6:00-Decatur Emmaus Gathering,
Great Hall

6:00-Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday (16)

4:00-Sanctuary Wedding,

Amanda Davis & Chris Crafton

Serving Schedule—September 10, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Pat Ash, Lois Whitaker

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Chris Fagin	Chris Fagin
Tina Canfield	Tom Spry
Jared Carter	Bob Smith
Bev Chapman	Tom Spry
Merle Chapman	Shirley Swarthout
Jim DeZarn	Larry Thicksten
Dennis Downey	Kevin Wilmot
Al Fagin	Jan Baird
Sally Force	Carol Graham
Gene Garver	Mary Jane Linton
	Alternate: Julie Martin

Deacons:

8:15 - 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

10:45 - 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:

8:15 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Kim Downey, Ryan Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey

10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:15 - Don & Rae Owens, Greg & Jo Carter

10:45 - Brett, Kelly, Ashley, Collin Swallow, Janet & Larry Thicksten

Children's Worship:

Teri Bushey

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brittney Munos

10:45 - David Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Charles & Juanita Reynolds, Maxine Koenig, Yvonne Purcell, Nancy Taylor

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

September 13 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

Hosts:

Sept. 11 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Sept. 12 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Sept. 13 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Sept. 14 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Sept. 15 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
 Katie Beal Childcare Coordinator
 Joanne Frady, Debra Fulk Childcare Providers
 Shelby Larrick, Kaylene Beal Childcare Providers
 Shelly Messmore Preschool Director
 Trudy Garland, Janet Langston Preschool Teachers
 Wendy Jalley, Kay Villarreal, Robin White Preschool Teachers
 Rudi Descaro Custodian
 David Flanders Custodian
 Dean Hadden Custodian
 Charles Wallace Custodian

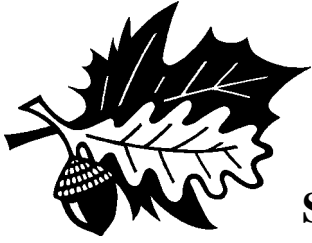
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Central Christian Church
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 650 West William Street
 Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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Study Opportunities Beginning in September



The week of September 18th, Central members and friends will have four new short-term educational opportunities to choose from as you plan your fall activities. Sign ups begin this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

Tuesday Night

Coleen & Mike Myers will host a study in their home on Tuesday nights beginning September 19th, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Philip Yancey, editor-at-large for *Christianity Today* magazine, writes a most personal message in his book *What's So AMAZING About Grace?* He also shares those personal experiences about grace in a ten-week study video that goes along with the book. If you want to take a probing look at grace to see what it looks like, then this study is for you. Yancey makes a strong case for why we Christians can and must reveal grace to today's world. You'll not only be challenged, but comforted. Yancey says, "There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less." The book for this study costs \$10. Please join us to discover how amazing grace really is. This study will also be offered in the Disciples Class beginning in October.

Robert & Teri Bushey will host an exciting new course in their home on Tuesday nights for young adults (18-30 something) that invites us to enter into dialogue with contemporary scholars of Christianity. Beginning on September 19th, *Living the Questions* is a twelve week study that seeks to ask the important questions of our faith such as: what role does science have in understanding creation, how is the Old Testament relevant for Christians today, who was Jesus of Nazareth, what does the resurrection mean for us, and how do we understand the vision of the book of Revelation. We will gather for a shared meal at 6 p.m. and conclude by 8 p.m.

Thursday Night

Thursday evenings, beginning September 21st, will see two adult educational opportunities at the church. A common supper in the Disciple Room will begin our time together at 5 p.m. and we will then divide into two groups as we launch into different studies. Childcare will be provided for young children in the nursery and children are invited to be a part of the supper. Both classes will be finished in time for choir members to join their rehearsal.

Pastor Gretchen will lead a study called "The Spiritual Life." This study will help us explore a question we all ask, "How can I live a more spiritual life?" Each week we will gather as friends to consider how we can go deeper in our relationship with God. Through readings, reflection on scripture, prayer, video presentation and lively group discussion, we will explore who we are, who God is, and how our lives intersect with God through the Holy Spirit. Group members will be introduced each week to a new and different (and sometimes ancient) way of praying. Weekly topics include, *What is most important to me?*; *How can I find balance in a whirlwind world?*; *What do I do with my doubts?*; and *How do I keep my possessions from possessing me?* Cost for the two study books is \$12.

Pastor Robert will lead a study of the Book of Job from the Interpretation Bible Studies Series. The book of Job is a powerful story of deep faith in tragic times. In a larger sense, it is the story of each of us who has ever tried to make sense of apparently senseless suffering. In this study, noted Old Testament scholar and educator David Hester focuses on the difficult questions raised in Job: Where is God in the worst moments of our emptiness? What are we to do when experience casts doubt on what we have always believed? Where in the world is justice? The author's touching honesty provides a moving connection between the ancient text and the world of today, inviting us to join Job's search for hope and healing. Cost for the study book is \$10.