



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, September 20, 2006

No. 38

Common Hope Campaign Begins

Last Sunday morning the Stewardship Department launched the fall stewardship emphasis in our congregation. During these weeks of preparation, each member is encouraged to consider all the ways in which God has blessed you and what sort of grateful response you want to make for God. If we give to the church what we need to give in gratitude, our church will have sufficient resources for its holy work. Think about your best response to God's generosity as we move toward Consecration Day on October 15 when we present our giving cards in morning worship.



Dorcas Group Meets September 26

Dorcas Group is meeting again Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of **Carol Bischoff**. J. D. (Dave) Webb, a local author, will be presenting a program entitled *Electronic Publishing – the Future is Now*. The title is deceiving, because the audience will not drift off to dream land. Rather, with this introduction to a new technology for a whole new way of reading, the group will be taken along on a journey, and it's quite a journey, to discover the publishing world from an author who followed his dream of writing novels by becoming, in the words of a reviewer of Mr. Webb's novel *Shepherd's Pie* due out next month, "the Mickey Spillane of the Midwest." Come to Dorcas, have some fun, receive a free gift, and share with Christian women in fellowship!

Continuing the Witness of Reconciliation

The Reconciliation Mission Offering provides the primary support of Disciples' efforts to advocate for, educate about and organize to dismantle systemic racism and structural oppression within our ministries and institutions, as well as the communities and cultures that we serve. At least 50 cents of every dollar from this offering remains in the Illinois/Wisconsin region where it is used to fund local initiatives aimed at eradicating racism from its roots, as well as to support the work of regional antiracism teams. The remainder supports the ministry of our General Reconciliation Mission across the life of our church. Traditionally, Reconciliation Mission receives no allocation from the Disciples Mission Fund and depends on this offering and other generous gifts for its support. Our offering will be received Sunday, September 24th and Sunday, October 1st. Your gifts will continue our mission to eradicate the pervasive evil of racism from our midst and to build new multi-cultural relationships that strive to welcome the whole human family to the Lord's table.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Looking for the Greatest

Text: Mark 9:30-37

Charles Watkins

Mass Choir for Regional Assembly, November 11

A special feature at this year's Regional Assembly will be a region wide mass choir directed by **Don Martin**. This is a great opportunity to get to know others in the region and to sing together. The anthem being planned is *We've Come This Far By Faith* with instruments and solo. Please consider joining us in Lisle, IL on November 11. Information and registration materials are available at the church office. If you have questions or if you are interested in being involved, please contact Don Martin.

Ladies Night Out October 4th

Women and friends of Central are invited to join together for Ladies Night Out on Wednesday, October 4th at 6 p.m. We'll gather at Tuscan's (1099 West Wood St.) for a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, great food, door prizes and laughter! We have the private dining 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. Sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the Friendship Center this Sunday or call the church office so we can confirm our reservation! See you October 4th!



Central Youth

Sunday, September 24th

Central Youth (grades 6-12) will meet from 5-7 p.m. at the church for PIZZA and Youth Sunday sign ups. Youth Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, October 29th. Our theme for our service is "Joy!" Plan to be part of Youth Sunday!

Sunday, October 1st Extreme FRY Hunt

Youth grades 6-12 will gather at the church at 5 p.m. to begin our Extreme Fry Hunt. We will be visiting several eating places to determine who serves the best French Fries in Decatur. We will conclude our hunt by 7 p.m. Come hungry and bring a friend!

Coming Events:

October 8th
Glow in the Dark Flag
Football (5-7 p.m.)

October 15th
Youth Sunday Practice &
Game Table Fun
(5-7 p.m.)

October 22nd
All Church Hayride &
Weiner Roast (4 p.m.-?)

October 29th
Youth Sunday
(Both Services)
Lunch at Monicals
after church

Charles's Column

This month Illinois Disciples are involved in fifteen listening conferences across the region as we try to figure out how to maintain vital ministries important to every congregation in Illinois and Wisconsin. Most members of our churches do not often consider the many and varied ministries carried out by our regional church. The most well-known of these is the ministry of search and call as our regional ministers assist congregations locate clergy leadership (between 10% and 20% of Illinois congregations are searching for new ministerial leadership at any given time.) The summer church camping program at Camp Walter Scott near Effingham is another high profile ministry of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin. Less well recognized are the ministries to congregations and pastors in crisis, mediating conflicts, and bringing a wider perspective to local problems. Then there are a wide variety of programs across our state for women, men, and youth. The mission of our regional church is *growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry.*

Mission funding has become a crisis issue before our whole church right now. All our wider church ministries are at risk, including those of our regional church. It takes nearly \$1,000,000 a year to fund what we expect our regional church to do. The current year's budget is \$149,000 short, and next year we are anticipating an additional 20% reduction in funding through the Disciples Mission Fund. The conclusion that presents itself is that we can no longer afford a regional clergy staff of five and no longer sustain the current level of programming and services to congregations.

Local congregations require a larger and larger percentage of their income for local expenses given the rapid escalation of the costs of energy and insurance. This pressure has led to fewer dollars for the mission of the wider church including our region. Giving by Illinois congregations to the Disciples Mission Fund has dropped 27% over the last ten years. Currently forty-five per cent of what we give to the Disciples Mission Fund flows back to our regional ministries.

So what's the answer? The simple answer is to provide more money for our regional mission. But while the answer is simple, the implementation is much more complex. Most congregations believe they are already doing the best they can to support mission beyond our own door steps given the local needs and the double digit increases in the costs for energy and insurance. But none of us want to see the regional ministries crippled or cut back to levels where they are no longer helpful to congregations. And none of us wants to see the good ministers serving us on regional staff lose their jobs.

So we are getting our heads together in fifteen conferences. We hope that a plan for moving forward will emerge from these discussions. In the meantime, please pray for your church—congregational, regional, and general—that we may find ways to carry on the mission that Jesus Christ has entrusted to us in our day.

Charles Watkins

Evangelism Seeds

How many times have we heard someone say, at a concert, worship service or other event at Central, "My, this is a beautiful church!" How would you respond to such a statement in a way that opens the possibility for conversation about your church? One thing you might say is, "Yes, it is a beautiful facility, but the real beauty of our church exists in it's caring and generous people," and then go on to relate a personal story of why Central is so important to you.

CPR/AED Certification Course

Central members and friends have an opportunity to sign up for one of three CPR/AED (automated external defibrillator) Certification courses that will be offered at Central this fall. The class, which includes lunch, will meet from 9:00-3:00 p.m. in the Disciple Room on Saturdays September 23rd, October 14th and October 21st. Ed Kemnitz, from Decatur Ambulance, will be our instructor and will go over all the new guidelines from the American Heart Association. Whether you are seeking re-certification or this is the first time you've taken such a course, all aspects of CPR and use of the AED will be addressed using videos, written materials and demonstrations. Those who took the course two years ago need to take it again to renew certification. You will need to wear comfortable clothing and come prepared to do return demonstrations on a table manikin as well as take a written test at the end of the day. You will also receive a training manual which is yours to keep. Successful completion of the one-day course will grant you a two-year certification by the American Heart Association. Please call the church office (428-4336) as soon as possible to register. Class size is limited to ten participants each day. The cost of this course is subsidized by the church, however we do ask that each participant pay a \$5 registration fee.



ATTENTION BELL RINGERS!

Chancel Bells will begin rehearsals on
Thursday, September 28, 6:00 p.m.

We will meet in the **CHOIR ROOM!**

We plan to participate in the Sunday services on November 26
at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

AND

in the Hanging of the Greens Service on November 26 at 4:30

Please let me know whether or not you can join us this time.
Invite a friend to come.

See you then!
Don Martin

FunTimers Theater Trip

The FunTimer's, Central's on-the-go group for those age 55 and older, is heading to the Little Theater on the Square in Sullivan on Friday, October 13th. The play is Smoke on the Mountain. Rev. Oglethorpe of Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, has invited the Sanders Family Singers to provide an upliftin' afternoon of singin' and witnessin' and we're invited to pull up a pew (or a theater seat) and join the congregation for a rollicking good time! Tickets for the play are \$23. You must pay for your ticket before Sunday, October 8th. We will leave the church at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 13th and return to Decatur around 5 p.m. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday or call the church office (428-4336).



Sunday, September 24, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Central Singers
10:45 Offertory-Alex Otis, Shelby
Larrick, Lucien Smith; John Baird,
Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse, Jane Latshaw
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
5:00-7:00-Youth Group

Monday (25)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (26)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-POP ChristCare, 218
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:00-Young Adults, Bushey's house
7:00-Dorcas, home of Carol Bischoff

Wednesday (27)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Stephen Ministry, 290

Thursday (28)

10:00-Alanon, 212
12:00-CTS Alumni Luncheon, Great Hall
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:00-Job Class, Great Hall
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (29)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
3:00-Wedding Rehearsal
5:30-Concertino Millikin Choirs

Saturday (30)

3:00-Sanctuary Wedding,
Heather Stephens & Troy Whitlatch

Serving Schedule—September 24, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Jan Dobbs, Chris Fagin

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Larry Thicksten

Decatur Memorial: Pat Ash

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, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Ruby Agnew, Betty Beebe, Willie Birkhead, Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos

10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Marilyn Blank, Bob Harmon, Billie Harmon

Greeters:

8:15 - Bob & Chloe Hoaglin, Becky Johnston, Virginia Griffith

10:45 - Barbara Tyler, Nedra Brintlinger

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Children's Worship: Christine Lyman-Harm

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos, Julia Funk

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Mike & Gerri Munos Family

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

September 27 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Sara Field, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Sept. 25 9:00-12:30 - Sara Field

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Sept. 26 9:00-12:30 - Barb Flanders

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

Sept. 27 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Sept. 28 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

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

Sept. 29 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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 Burkhart, 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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Counting On You

September 24

Worship Attendance 318

Sunday School Attendance 87



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(Disciples of Christ)
 650 West William Street
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PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
 PAID

