



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, September 27, 2006

No. 39

## 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 again this Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

## FunTimers Theater Trip

The FunTimers, Central's on-the-go group for those age 55 and older, are heading to the Little Theater on the Square in Sullivan on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 sign up and pay for your ticket before Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. We will leave the church at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and return to Decatur around 5 p.m. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday or call the church office.

## Evangelism Seeds

How do you respond when someone asks you about your church? Do you tell them about the wonderful music and meaningful worship experiences at Central? Do you talk about the Sunday School class or study group you're involved in? Do you tell about your child's experience with Youth Group or camp? Do you share how you were comforted during a difficult time or transition? Do you talk about the wonderful people or the many opportunities to become involved in service and outreach ministries throughout the community? However you respond to this question, speak from your own experience and share your own unique reasons for why you are a member of Central. If you don't know how you would answer this question, give it some thought now so that you will be ready to respond when someone asks you. And once you've shared your story, don't forget to ask them to join you in worship and invite them to experience the Central Difference!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006**

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**In Remembrance**

Text: I Corinthians 10:14-22

Charles Watkins

## Common Hope ♦ Common Trust

Central's fall stewardship emphasis continues this week as we look toward Consecration Sunday when each member will have the opportunity to complete a Giving Card for 2007. Watch your mail this week for an invitation to worship and lunch on October 15.

Continue to pray about your best response to God's generosity in your life.



## Ladies Night Out October 4<sup>th</sup>

Women and friends of Central are invited to join together for Ladies Night Out on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. We'll gather at Tuscany'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. You may 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 on October 4<sup>th</sup>!



## Central Youth

### Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 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!

### Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

Glow in the Dark Flag Football (5-7 p.m.) We will gather at the church and go to a local "green space" to play flag football. We will return to the church for snacks.

### Special Invitation for Jr High Youth

Jr. High Youth Invited to join with First Presbyterian Jr. High Youth on October 8<sup>th</sup> for a Mystery Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Please, let Pastor Robert know by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> if you plan to attend.

### Coming Events

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

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

October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Youth Sunday  
(Both Services)  
Lunch at Monicals  
after church

## Charles's Column

World Communion Sunday was first observed on the first Sunday of October in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church with hopes that the celebration would be joined by other denominational groups. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) joined the observance in 1941 after the International Convention approved a resolution brought by Jesse Bader who was secretary of the evangelism department of the Federal Council of Churches.

The original idea was to demonstrate the love and support of church members for their missionaries abroad, to recognize the oneness we have with Christians all over the world. While the vast majority of Christians around the world celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday, the majority of American Protestants do not. So this effort in the United States really brought our varied denominations into solidarity with the wider church around the globe.

These days we speak often about the new demands of a global economy. But the church has had a global awareness for a long time. Over the seventy years of World Communion observances, most of our mission stations around the world have become part of indigenous churches in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The Christians in those lands have become global partners with us in serving our one Lord.

In popular piety, the moments of Communion in our worship service are an intense encounter between each individual and Jesus Christ, receiving forgiveness and hope, and committing oneself afresh to faithful discipleship. World Communion widens our awareness that this bread of life and the cup of salvation are shared by all Christians everywhere—in great cathedrals, in mountain-side huts, even in secret assemblies. Recognizing that all Christians everywhere serve Jesus Christ, we find ourselves in a world-wide communion of more than a billion believers.

This coming Sunday is World Communion Sunday at Central and across North America and around the globe. I hope that you will share in the Lord's Supper with all your sisters and brothers in every land.

*Charles Watkins*

## Mission Trips Planned to Hurricane Affected Areas

Plans are now underway for Central and sister congregation, Prairie Avenue Christian Church, to join together for two mission trip opportunities in 2007 to areas devastated by last year's hurricanes and subsequent flooding. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, a group will travel to Westside Christian Church in New Orleans and on June 25<sup>th</sup>, a group will travel to Slidell, Louisiana. Both groups will be assisting individual families with the reconstruction of their homes. Tasks may include roofing, dry wall installation, painting, general cleanup and more. There will be a job for you to do, regardless of your physical ability or knowledge/experience. **NOW** is the time to make a decision about your trip participation and to arrange for appropriate time away from work and other responsibilities. The cost per participant will be minimal; probably less than \$250 to cover travel, lodging and meal expenses, and scholarships will be available. Look for the trip information packs available in the Friendship Center soon and plan to join us as we reach out in love and compassion.





### News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Karen & Dale Penn** and family following the September 21<sup>st</sup> death of her mother, *T. Marie Holm*, of West Salem, Illinois.

### Notes of Thanks Received

Our thanks and gratitude for all the prayers, cards, and gifts at the time of our mother, Irma Whitaker's death. You are friends.

**Jim & Lois Whitaker**

Dear Hearts,

Thank you so much for all the loving attention you have given us through a somewhat difficult time. Thank you for the food, for the transportation to appointments, for the cards and most of all for your prayers.

From the bottom of our hearts,  
**Bill & Claudine Nichols**

### Women's Retreat

Attention all women and friends of Central! Mark your calendars for our mid-winter retreat, February 23-24, 2007 at Camp One-Way (near Niantic). "Women Moving Mountains" will be our theme as we explore how we can use the abundance with which we've been blessed as we reach out to others. Through Bible study, music, worship, fellowship, great meals and lots of laughter, you will come away from the weekend renewed and ready to embrace your faith in new ways. More details will be available soon, but set the dates aside now and make plans to join us in February!

### Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now!

Fall is only beginning, but now is the time to order your Holiday Poinsettias! We are selling them as a fund raiser for future mission trips. The Poinsettias are grown at a local greenhouse. Each plant is in a 6 1/2 inch pot with a decorative wrap and beautiful handmade, wired bow. Plants are available in red, pink, white, Monet (blush) and marble and sell for \$12.50 each. Order forms are now available in the Friendship Center. Orders will be accepted through October 22<sup>nd</sup> and payment must accompany the order. Order one or several for yourself or others (they make great gifts) but don't miss this opportunity to pre-purchase beautiful holiday plants and support future mission trips. The plants will be available for pick-up the first Sunday of December. For more information, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.



### Sunday, October 1, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Octet  
10:45Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse, Jane Latshaw  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
5:00-7:00-Youth Group

### Monday (2)

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

### Tuesday (3)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room  
1:15-POP ChristCare, 218  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-Young Adults, Bushey's home

### Wednesday (4)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280  
12:00-Central Singers  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-Ladies Night Out, Tuscany

### Thursday (5)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:00-Job Class, Great Hall  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### Friday (6)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall



October 1, 2006

### Counting On You

#### September 24

Worship Attendance ..... 343  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 73

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**Serving Schedule—October 1, 2006**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Bruce Williams, Sue Simcox

**Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:**

Larry Chapman, Larry Thicksten

**Deacons:**

8:15 - 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, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox, Rebecca Smart

10:45 - 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 Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

**Ushers:**

8:15 - Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Ropp

10:45 - Team 6 - Maxine Koenig, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

**Greeters:**

8:15 - Dean & Sue Simcox, Mary Kincaid, Rita Woods

10:45 - Larry & Deborah Foster, Jon & Jane French

**Fellowship Coffee Host:** Connie Bordner

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

**Acolyte:**

10:45 - Daniel Hinze

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Keith Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

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

**Van Drivers:**

8:15 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

**October 4 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Sara Field

**Hosts:**

Oct. 2 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Oct. 3 9:00-12:30 - Darla Lienemann

12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford

Oct. 4 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Oct. 5 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson

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

Oct. 6 9:00-12:30 - Bonnie Sauer

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  
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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