



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, October 4, 2006

No. 40

Consecration Day is Almost Here!

Have you noticed the campaign posters and the bulletin inserts each Sunday? Have you stopped to watch the video in the Friendship Center? Have you been thinking and praying about the response you will make to God's generosity in worship on October 15? There is just one Sunday remaining before Consecration Day when each of us has the opportunity to fill out our Giving Card for 2007 and present to the Lord in worship. If you have not turned in your reservation for dinner on October 15, please fill out the reservation card today.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2006
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Common Hope • Common Trust
Text: Colossians 1:3-14
Charles Watkins

Welcome New Member



We welcome **Martin Brown**, who became a member of Central on October 1 by transfer of membership from the Church of England.

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*. 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, contact Don Martin.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, October 11th!

We invite you to come and enjoy lunch with the Elderberries — Central's fellowship group for those at least 55 years young! We will meet at noon on Wednesday, October 11th in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Goulash, Seven Layer Salad, Hawaiian Rolls, and Dessert. The food is lovingly prepared with the dedicated hands of Central volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$3. Following the meal, we will be WOWED by the Piano Duo of Marilyn and Marilyn (Mertz and Ward, that is!). 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, October 9th, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

FunTimers Theater Trip

The FunTimers, 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 sign up and 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.

Evangelism Seeds

Do you know that approximately 90% of the people who join a church do so because someone they knew and trusted invited them to come to worship? Who do you know that might receive strength, hope and blessing from the fellowship, worship, study and mission opportunities found at Central? Invite them today and help put them in touch with a life-giving relationship with God.

Youth Column

Sunday, October 8th Glow in the Dark Flag Football

Central Youth will gather at 5 p.m. for a fun game of flag football using our glow in the dark football. We will play at Kiwanis Park and return to the church for snacks. We will continue to assign parts for Youth Sunday. If you have not signed up you may also send Pastor Robert an email at rbushey@cccdisciples.org

Extreme FRY Hunt Names Winner

Thirteen Youth grades 6-12 and four adults participated in our two hour Extreme Fry Hunt last Sunday. We visited seven fast food places to determine who serves the best French Fries in Decatur. And, the winner was the **DQ Grill and Chill!** Fries were judged by flavor, saltiness, consistent length, greasiness, temperature and timely service. Our group consumed 40 orders of fries along with several sodas and a variety of other foods during our hunt!

Coming Events

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

You are probably familiar with the economic theory that says when each member of society acts in one's own best economic interest, the entire economy prospers as if guided by an unseen hand.

The philosophical underpinning of our congregation's current fall stewardship emphasis resembles that theory as it supposes that if every member of the congregation responds to God's generosity in a way that shows God how grateful each of us is for our many blessings, then God's church will have the resources that it needs to carry on its mission and ministry, as if by an unseen hand.

The more familiar approach to financing a congregation's work is to set a budget goal and then ask the congregation to subscribe it. The disaster that frequently accompanies this approach is that each member tries to figure out her share of the total and then give that amount. The problem with that is that it gives some people an impossible challenge which they can never meet, and at the same time it gives others an insignificant challenge which they can easily dismiss and hardly be bothered with.

For example, if every worshipper in our church contributes an equal share of the costs of our congregation's mission, then each child, woman, and man would simply put \$46 into the brass plate fifty-two times a year, and the congregation would move forward. That would be \$92 each week for a couple, \$184 each week for a family of four. And that would work just fine if every one could do that and did it.

While a \$46 gift for some of us in worship each Sunday would be a huge and maybe insurmountable challenge, that amount would not really represent either my ability to give nor my desire to show God that I am truly grateful for the ways in which God has blessed my life. If I gave only \$46 every week, I would not really be doing my part to show my appreciation for health and happiness and income and meaning and joy and faith and pride in my congregation.

Since \$46 every week would be an inadequate response from Jane and from me, just what would really show God how grateful we are for the gladness and blessedness in our lives?

The answer developed among God's people three thousand years ago is this: if you are blessed and if you are grateful, then ten per cent of what you have belongs to God and should be presented before the Lord in worship and gratitude.

That scriptural ten per cent challenge should be for each of us either a goal toward which we are working, adding one per cent of income each year, or a goal which we are proud and grateful to surpass. When Jane and I were young and living from paycheck to paycheck, I was glad that I could find a way to give that tenth of our income for God's work in the world. Now, I am proud that we have the ability to give more than 10% of our income for God's work. I look forward to Consecration Day with joy and gladness, and I look forward to being with you as we demonstrate to God how grateful we are.

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Kathleen & Edward Lucas**, following the October 2nd birth of their daughter, **Anna Marie**. Big brothers are **Mitchell** and **Nicholas** and proud grandparents are **Ronald & Nancy Ellen Taylor**.

Charles Watkins

CPR/AED Certification Course Offered

Classes are filling up for the final two CPR/AED training sessions this fall. The class, which includes lunch, will meet from 9:00-3:00 p.m. in the Disciple Room on Saturday October 14th and October 21st (you choose one date only). Ed Kemnitz, from Decatur Ambulance, 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. Successful completion of the one-day course will grant you a two-year certification by the American Heart Association. Call the church office (428-4336) as soon as possible to register. Class size is limited to ten participants each day.

Mission Trip Informational Meeting

If you think you might be interested in attending one of the 2007 Mission Trips to the hurricane affected New Orleans area, we invite you to join us on Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. for an informational meeting. Pastors Lonnie and Vicki Southern, from Davis Memorial Christian Church in Taylorville, will join us to share stories and pictures from their recent trip to the area. Our trips are scheduled for March 10-18 and June 23-July 1, 2007. Both groups will travel to the New Orleans area to assist 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, regardless of your physical ability or knowledge/experience. Cost per participant will be \$250 to cover travel, lodging and meal expenses, and scholarships will be available. You will also be responsible for purchasing your own meals during travel times. Look for the trip information packs available in the Friendship Center soon.

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now!

We are selling poinsettias as a fund raiser for future mission trips. Each plant is in a 6 1/2 " 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 22nd 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 to pick up the first Sunday of December. For more information, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.

Youth Sunday School News

The Children and Youth Sunday School classes were busy during the month of September. New Revised Standard Version Children's Bibles were distributed to students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade (we still have several if your child has not received one). Each week we have closed our time together with snacks and group activities. Our primary and intermediate level teachers were trained to use a reading tool with our current curriculum used in most public schools. Classes are offered for Preschool through High School each week at 9:30 a.m. Preschool class meets at the nursery and grades K-12 meet on the second level of the Nichols Education Wing. Make Sunday School a part of your child's week and join us this Sunday!



Sunday, October 8, 2006

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Ward, piano;
Leslie Peart, organ
10:45-Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-10:15-Parish Nurse, Liz Campbell
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250
5:00-7:00-Youth Group

Monday (9)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (10)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:15-POP ChristCare, 218
5:30-Property Dept., Disciple Room
6:00-Young Adults, Bushey's house

Wednesday (11)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 280
12:00-Central Singers
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
1:30-Low Vision Support, Disciple Room
5:00-CADV Meeting, 290
5:00-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Room
5:30-Operations Dept., Disciple Room
6:30-Christian Ed. Dept., 280

Thursday (12)

10:00-Alanon, 212
5:00-Job Class, Great Hall
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-PrairieLand Investors, 212
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (13)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
1:00-Fun Timers, Sullivan Little Theater

Saturday (14)

8:30-Elders' Retreat, Decatur Club
9:00-3:00-CPR Class, Disciple Room

Counting On You

October 1

Worship Attendance 301
Sunday School Attendance 71

Serving Schedule—October 8, 2006

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Kevin Otis, Barbara Tyler

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Richard Ward
Sandy Garver
Dean Gray
Janet Gray

Elders

Larry Otis
Wayne Honeycutt
Larry Pepper
Jan Baird
Brett Swallow
Lois Whitaker
Bruce Williams
Kevin Wilmot
Connie Bordner
Randy Brooks
Alternate: Jan Dobbs

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 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Carl Boline, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston
10:45 - Team 7 - Karen McFadin, Chad McFadin, Jon French, Jane French, Clyde Booher

Greeters:

8:15 - Morris & Willie Birkhead, Betty Cox, Betty Ann Roe
10:45 - Pam & Shelby Larrick, Duane & Lynn Potter

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Ed & Joy Adams

Children's Worship: Katie Powers

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brittney Munos
10:45 - Erik Harm

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter
10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Carroll & Doris Little, Connie Ogden, Jan Patrick, Connie Schabowski

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams
10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

October 11 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Helen Hufford

Hosts:

Oct. 9 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis
Oct. 10 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer
Oct. 11 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward
Oct. 12 9:00-12:30 - Roy Schilling
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Oct. 13 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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