



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, May 9, 2007

No. 18

Community Event to Feature Attorney General Lisa Madigan

The Central Illinois Organizing Project will sponsor a community organized, family-centered event on Saturday, May 19th from 9-11 a.m. at St. Peter's AME Church, 515 S. Church Street. The event will feature special guest speaker Attorney General Lisa Madigan and will raise awareness to issues of economic injustice involving Payday Lending, which often charges lenders upwards of 550% interest for their loans. Payday Lending is one of the fastest growing businesses outnumbering McDonalds locations in most communities. The event will also include a carnival atmosphere with games for children and youth. CIOP is an interfaith organization made up of congregations and organizations across our state working together to address economic injustice in our communities. CIOP has worked with local banks and lending institutions to provide equitable lending for lower income borrowers in Decatur, assisted small farmers in acquiring fair interest loans, worked to help legal immigrants receive their just pay from an employer in Bloomington, and organized the movement in Springfield for night bus service for lower income residents who work at the retail centers across town from their homes. St. Peters AME Church, Central Christian Church Peace & Justice Task Force, and the local chapter of the NAACP are local members of CIOP. Other local congregations are also planning to join in this effort.

MUSICAMP is Coming!

The MUSICAMP will be June 4-8 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1329 Arbor Drive.

Again this year, we will combine forces with First Baptist Church to present Musicamp for children grades K-6. Guest musicians will share their art. There will also be singing and other musical activities.

Registration forms are available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact **Don Martin**.

Intergenerational Mission Trip Planned for This Summer!

A wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth is being planned for you for this summer! An intergenerational mission trip (for adults and youth at least 16 years of age) will leave for Slidell, Louisiana (New Orleans area) on Saturday, June 23rd. During the week in Slidell, participants will help rebuild homes which were destroyed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. School will be out and this would be a fabulous opportunity for families with teenagers to work and grow together! The cost for the trip will be approximately \$250 and scholarships are available for Central members. For more information, pick up a registration pack in the Fellowship Center or speak with Pastors Robert or Gretchen. To see photos and read the stories of the participants who just returned from the trip to New Orleans, check out our website at www.cccdisciples.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

A Gift of Peace

Text: John 14:23-29

Gretchen Barron

Your Suggestions Please

The 2007 Nominating Committee for our congregation invites your suggestions as the committee selects a slate of nominees for the offices of elder, deacon, trustee, and officers emeriti. There will a half sheet form in this Sunday's bulletin which is always available in the church office through the week on which to record your suggested names. Thank you for helping!

Miracle Day 2007 Our Youth...Our Future

The Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin has announced that the next Miracle Day for our region will be on September 29th at Camp Walter Scott. Save the date on your calendar. This year the camp is celebrating its 45th anniversary as a Disciples of Christ camping facility. While the camp has been well maintained, several present maintenance needs and updates are beyond any available funds and volunteers to complete them. Volunteers, especially those skilled in working with concrete, are needed for some prep work during the summer. Contact Becky Lewis, Camp Manager if you are available to help with the prep work at 217-739-2332. More information on opportunities to help with Miracle Day 2007 will follow in future newsletters.



Central Youth

Sunday, May 13th
Mother's Day
Youth will not meet.

Sunday, May 20th
Weldon Springs State Park
Noon-5:30 p.m.
Central Youth
Grades 3-5 & 6-12
Families Welcome!
Picnic lunch, hiking,
paddle boats & more.
Sign up this Sunday!

Summer Camp

It's Time to Register
for Summer Activities!
Genesis Camp Grades 2-3
June 4-6
Koinonia Camp Grades 3-8
June 25-June 30
ADDaM Camp Grades 8-12
June 24-July 2
Shalom Camp Grades 9-12
June 11-16
Grades listed reflect
current school year.

Wisconsin Dells Trip July 8-15

The Inn at Glacier Canyon
Youth entering 6th grade -
finishing 12th grade
Spend the week with your
friends from Central!
Indoor/Outdoor Water
Parks
Wisconsin DUKW Tours
and MUCH MORE!

Gretchen's Gleanings

I had the privilege and the opportunity last week to return to Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, the place that was my home for four years. As a member of the Alumni Board, I get to make that trek twice each year for meetings. This time, however, was different. This time my mind was filled with memories of that first journey to Indy, made twenty years ago as I began my seminary career in 1987. I remembered the excitement and joy, anxiety and fear that I felt as I embarked on that new adventure. I remembered the lost feeling in the pit of my stomach, standing in the parking lot waving good-bye to my parents as they drove away after helping me move to that far-away land. I remembered the thrill of meeting new people and discovering new things and experiencing the close community of that place. I remembered the exhilaration of throwing myself into my studies and the satisfaction that came from exploring new thoughts and ideas. I remembered that sense of awe that God had somehow called me to that place and time and I wondered in hushed anticipation at the possibilities and the future that lay before me as I gave myself to God and to ministry. So many memories and feelings came flooding back as I looked around that place that has played such an important role in my faith formation and my life.

As I walked over to the student apartments, I was more than a little surprised, and pleased, to see the three purple clematis vines that I planted outside my apartment twenty years ago still thriving with fat buds ready to burst into glorious color. Goodness! They were still alive! I never would have imagined them to still be there, and thriving at that! As I stood there, looking and remembering, I was reminded of how dependent we are upon each other in this life. In order for those vines to still be blooming twenty years later, seminary students through the years must have nurtured them. They must have pulled weeds, and watered them in times of drought. They had to have trimmed back the spent blooms and scraggly old growth. And hopefully, they have also enjoyed their beauty.

Life is like that, isn't it? We, all of us, plant seeds throughout our lifetime – seeds of visions and dreams; seeds of kindness and compassion; seeds of forgiveness and reconciliation; seeds of love and peace and hope. Sometimes we get to see those seeds grow to maturity and full bloom, but more often than not, we plant them as an act of faith, trusting that God will provide others to care for them and nurture them and enjoy them. We just never know, do we, the impact that our actions, our decisions, our kindness might have on the lives of others five, ten, twenty or a hundred years in the future. We just never know who might come along to water and nurture the seeds we've planted or the ways that we might nourish and care for the seedlings that others have lovingly planted.

We are all in this together, one global community. Not one of us exists to or for ourselves. Remember that this week, won't you – as you lend a hand to someone in need, as you extend forgiveness to a loved one, as you hope and dream and work and live. Plant a seed for someone else to nurture, care for a seedling that someone else has placed in the ground, and enjoy the glorious beauty that God creates in each of us and in the world as we share life and faith and love with each other!

Blessings, *Gretchen*

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Joe Lewis** and family following the death of his wife, **Lillian Lewis** on May 3rd.

Joy & Tom Potter, of Mesa, Arizona, proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, **Danielle Potter** to **Matt Patricio**. Danielle is a student at NAU majoring in Psychology and English. Matt is studying to be a pharmacist.

Notes of Thanks Received

I sincerely thank all who took the time and trouble to help make my 90th birthday so special. All the loving expressions of good wishes were blessings beyond measure! May God richly bless each and everyone of you!

Edith Mellinger

Thank you to Dr. Fritz & staff, the nurses & CNAs at McKinley Court, ministers and friends at Central, and other friends in Decatur for the services given to Lillian.

Joe Lewis

Thanks for Supporting Dove, Inc!

The Christian Action & Community Services Department would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended our Open House at Dove's Anna B. Millikin Home last Sunday. Those who took the opportunity to tour the home gave generously to support the needed renovations for this building to house Dove's Domestic Violence Shelter. We'd like to extend a special thanks to the ChristCare Stitchers for donating the two beautiful raffle items made from **Ernestine Mrozinski's** fabric, to **Kaylene Beal** for coordinating a talented group of musicians to provide entertainment for the afternoon, and to the youth who helped serve the dessert. We, and especially the women and children who are victims of domestic violence, deeply appreciate our congregation's continued commitment to Dove.

An Invitation to Learn More About Our Mission Trips to the Gulf

The World Outreach Department invites the entire Central family to join them in the Great Hall on Sunday, May 20th for delicious goodies, great fellowship and inspiring stories from our recent mission trip to New Orleans. The Friendship Coffee time will move to the Great Hall and extend throughout the Sunday School hour to give everyone the opportunity to hear about recent experiences and enjoy photographs from the March mission trip. Information and Registration forms will also be available for those who might like to participate in the trip to Slidell, Louisiana this coming June. This will be our last Friendship Coffee time of the season before summer worship hours begin on May 27th. We hope to see you in the Great Hall on Sunday, May 20th!

Counting On You

May 6

Worship Attendance 301
Sunday School Attendance 66



Sunday, May 13, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory- Youth Choir; Alex Otis, Soloist; John Baird, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship, 250

Monday (14)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Tuesday (15)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-Young Adults, Bushey home
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room

Wednesday (16)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-4:00-Banner Committee, 207
1:00-6:00 Y After School, 260 & 280
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:00-Phoenix End of Year Talent Show,
Great Hall
5:15-Nominating Committee, Parlor

Thursday (17)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:15-GED Family Fun Night, Great Hall
6:30-Boy Scouts, 290
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (18)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280

Serving Schedule—May 13, 2007

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Wayne Honeycutt, Tom Spry

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Karen McFadin
Dean Simcox
Sue Simcox
Janice Mitchell
Alex Otis
Andrew Rutherford
Gary Rutherford
Roger Rutherford
Lucy Acheson
Neil Baird

Elders

Barb Tyler
Mary Jane Linton
Julie Martin
Bruce Campbell
Janet Lyman
Larry Pepper
Shirley Swarouth
Bob Smith
Mike Holbrook
Mary Jane Oliver
Alternate: Jan Baird

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Bob Keller, Karen Keller, Shelby Larrick, Charlie Ropp, Nicole Ropp, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, David Shields, Max Sperry

10:45 - Team 4 - Kevin Otis, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Jon French, Melinda Hawbaker, Scott Hawbaker, Dee Hill, Karen McFadin, David Miller, Katie Miller, Janice Mitchell, Alex Otis, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

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 - Bruce & Liz Campbell, Dean & Sue Simcox
10:45 - Clyde & Jean Booher, Warren & Azalee Berner

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk
10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar
10:45 - Keith Backes

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Brenda & Don Tankersley

Children's Worship: Katie Powers

Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Jan & Ron Dobbs, Don & Virginia Swallow

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick
10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

May 16 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

Hosts:

May 14 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis
May 15 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
May 16 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
May 17 9:00-12:30 - Pat Ash
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
May 18 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
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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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