



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, May 16, 2007

No. 19

## World Outreach Invites you to Friendship Coffee on Sunday

The World Outreach Department invites the entire Central family to join them in the Great Hall on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you in the Great Hall on Sunday!

## Community Event on Payday Lending this Saturday

The Central Illinois Organizing Project will sponsor a community organized, family-centered event this Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 a.m. at St. Peter's AME Church, 515 S. Church St. 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. St. Peters AME Church, Central Christian Church Peace & Justice Task Force, First Presbyterian Church Peacemaking Committee, and the local chapter of the NAACP are local members of CIOP. Other local congregations are also planning to join in this effort.

## Blessing of Children and Dedication of Parents



May 13, 2007

**SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2007**  
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
**Now What?**  
Text: Acts 1:1-11  
Charles Watkins

## Summer Hours Start Early

This Sunday will be the last one on our regular schedule. Beginning on May 27, we will go to summer hours with worship at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and classes for all ages at 9 a.m. Summer hours will extend from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend for the first time this year.

## 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**.

## Thanks to Office Helpers

**Chris Fagin**, Chair of Personnel, organized a group of volunteers to operate the church office last Thursday so that the administrative staff, caretakers, and clergy could go on retreat. The staff was never missed. Thanks **Chris**, **Sandy Garver**, and **Joy Adams** for answering the phones, folding the bulletins, and keeping the office going.



## Central Youth

**Sunday, May 20th**

**Weldon Springs**

**State Park**

**Noon-5:30 p.m.**

**Central Youth Grades 3-5**

**& 6-12**

**Families are Welcome!**

**Picnic lunch, hiking, paddle  
boats & more.**

**Bring money for the**

**Concession Stand.**

### **Summer Camp**

**Deadlines are nearing**

**for Summer Camp!**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> grade -**

**finishing 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Spend the week with your**

**friends from Central!**

**Indoor/Outdoor**

**Water Parks**

**Wisconsin DUKW Tours**

**And MUCH MORE!**

## Charles's Column

Last week I went mountain climbing right here on the prairie. At our staff retreat at Villa Maria on the shores of Lake Springfield, our retreat leader Michelle Jenks, director of Grace Institute in Aurora, divided the staff into two climbing teams. She gave rope with which to attach our climbing team together and a list of possible provisions. We had to negotiate who would carry what on the list, and decide together what we would need on our climb up the mountain. What does each individual need for the climb? What items that the whole group needs will be carried by which individual? No one could carry more than fifteen items. If we wanted socks, we couldn't take the Snickers bar. If we wanted a bandana, we might have to leave the crampons behind. And if we needed more information, the team could ask only five questions in all. The exercise was to show Michelle and ourselves how we work together, how we devise decisions as a group, and how important it is that we ask the right questions. Michelle seemed impressed at the respect we show for each other and the deference we afford to each member of our staff team. She was not too impressed with the questions we asked—which focused mostly on details and not on the “big picture.” She identified our tendency to charge ahead with fulfilling an assignment and immersing ourselves in the details of implementation without looking up to ask, “How high is the mountain, Michelle? Is it summer or winter, Michelle?” Getting those answers first would have made our selections from the list of provisions more sensible.

A second series of exercises focused on our congregational mission statement. First we had to recall what it said without having a copy in front of us. Could you do that? I published it again in this space last February. Come on, what does it say? Actually, as a team we did not do too badly. What one of us could not recall another could remember at least approximately. Her point in this session was to emphasize how vital it is that each of us knows what is the mission of our congregation.

The next set of exercises encouraged us to see how the work that each member of the team—custodians, administrative staff, and clergy—contributes positively (or not) to our congregation's mission.

By the end of the day, we were newly aware of the vital part each member of our staff team plays in furthering our congregation's mission. The longest staff tenure represented at the retreat was twenty-one years—the shortest was seven years. We have been on this team together for a long time. We have to be sure not to take each other for granted and to do what only we can do to strengthen the mission and ministry of this congregation.

How about you? You are climbing this mountain with us. Do you know our mission statement? Do you know how vital your contribution to our team is in pursuing our mission? We are glad you are in our climbing party with us!

*Charles Watkins*

## Miracle Day 2007 *Our Youth...Our Future*

The Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin has announced the next Miracle Day for our region will be September 29<sup>th</sup> at Camp Walter Scott. This year the camp is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> 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. **Lois Whitaker** will serve as Central's coordinator for Miracle Day 2007.

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Rudy & Mary Kay Descaro** following the death of Mary Kay's sister, *Shirley Mae Jacoby* on May 9.....and to **Becky & John Flanders** and family following the May 9<sup>th</sup> death of Becky's mother, *Betty Jo Renken*.

## New Series for Young Adults/College Students

Beginning on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Adults, ages *18-30 something*, are invited to gather in the Great Hall at 9 – 9:45 a.m. for a light breakfast and brief discussion. The series on Faith and Contemporary Life will be flexible to meet the summer schedules of our younger adults and college students home for the summer. Pastor Robert will lead the series. The gatherings will be a great opportunity for you to connect with other younger adults in our congregation. We will generate our list of topics on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, or you can email your suggestion to [rbushey@cccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org)

## Will You Attend the 2007 General Assembly?

Disciples from around the United States and Canada will meet in the Fort Worth, Texas, Convention Center July 21-25, 2007 to worship, carry out mission work and conduct the business of the church. We'll gather to share with each other and explore the theme of the Assembly, "Share the Feast," based on Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 in the Book of Matthew. If you haven't yet registered, it's best to do so online before June 1, when the cost goes up. You can also register by mail or fax. For more information, visit [www.disciples.org/ga/registration](http://www.disciples.org/ga/registration)

Please let the church office know before the Church Council meeting on June 21 if you are planning to attend the assembly, so that you can be considered for one of Central's voting representative slots.



## Evangelism Seeds

*"We can never outgrow God or outgrow faith. The deeper our lives, the more we dwell in scripture, the more alive our prayer, the more thoughtful our reflections, the more conscious our relationship with God. The richer our community experience, the more clearly we will see the questions. And the more we can see that Jesus is the answer. We can live shallow lives. God is there, luring us deeper. When we move into more complex lives, God is there, enticing us further in, higher up. Don't worry. A life of faith has no glass ceiling. The waters that flow into the well of life with God are infinite."* From Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese

## Counting On You

May 13

Worship Attendance ..... 362  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 67



## Sunday, May 20, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Leslie Peart, Organ  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Cindy Soebbing  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee & Mission Trip Program, Great Hall  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
12:00-Youth to Weldon Springs

## Monday (21)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-Scholarship Committee, 290  
6:30-CE Steering Committee, 290

## Tuesday (22)

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  
6:00-Dorcas, Carlos O'Kelleys  
6:30-Young Adults, Bushey home

## Wednesday (23)

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  
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290  
6:00-Preschool Family Carnival Night, Great Hall

## Thursday (24)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:00-6:00-Y After School, 260 & 280  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
4:30-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Room  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (25)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

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## Serving Schedule—May 20, 2007

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Chapman, Shirley Swarthout

### Deacons:

8:15 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Jared Carter, Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Jim DeZarn, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Joe Lewis, Brittney Munos, Gail Prince, Larry Prince, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox

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, Erik Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Daniel Hinze, David Martin, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

### 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 - Greg & Jo Carter, Harold & Bess King

10:45 - Dee Hill, Ruth Ewing, Teri & Joshua Bushey

**Parish Nurse:** Cindy Soebbing

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Rachel Ash

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** World Outreach Department

**Parish Nurse:** Cindy Soebbing

**Children's Worship:** Kim Miller

### Preparation of Communion:

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

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

### May23 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

### Hosts:

May 21 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford

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

May 22 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders

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

May 23 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

May 24 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

May 25 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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

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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 Latschaw ..... 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 ..... Caretaker  
David Flanders ..... Caretaker  
Dean Hadden ..... Caretaker  
Charles Wallace ..... Caretaker

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PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

