



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, May 23, 2007

No. 20

## Summer Schedule Starts This Sunday

Beginning this Sunday, May 27, Central will move to summer hours with worship at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and Sunday School at 9 a.m. We will continue this schedule through Labor Day weekend September 2. And as always, casual dress in worship is welcome and encouraged.

## Registration Deadline Draws Near!

The registration deadline is near for this summer's mission trip to Slidell, Louisiana. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to exercise and grow in your faith as you live your call to serve Christ through serving others. This is an intergenerational mission trip (for adults and youth at least 16 years of age) and would be an unforgettable experience for families to share together. We will leave on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. During the week in Slidell, participants will help rebuild homes that were destroyed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The group will return to Decatur on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cost for the trip is \$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 of the March trip to New Orleans, check out our website at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org).

## Children's Worship will Recess for Summer

Our Children's Worship ministry during our second worship service for children ages 5-10 will recess for the summer months. We will resume in September. Thanks to: **Teri Bushey, Christine Lyman-Harm, Kim Miller, Katie Powers, and Melinda Hawbaker** for staffing the program for 2006-2007!

## Assessing Central's Financial Condition

As president of the congregation, I chair the assessment team appointed following the congregational meeting last December to monitor the church's financial condition and make recommendations as needed for reductions in staff and program. The assessment team met during the first quarter of 2007 and was pleased with our church's progress. Now that one-third of the year is completed, I am pleased to report to you that the church's operating fund has achieved a small surplus four out of the last five months. I want to thank each member and friend of our church for your faithful generosity this year and encourage you to continue your fine effort. With this outstanding level of support, we are not required to reduce staff and programs of ministry in our congregation at this time. Congratulations on your generous achievement.

*Mike Holbrook*

**SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2007**  
**WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00**  
**God's Guest List**

Text: Acts 2:1-21  
Robert Bushey

## Sunday Breakfast Club

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Christian Education Department will resume the Sunday Breakfast Club. SBC will serve a continental style breakfast from 8:45-9:15 a.m. in the Great Hall every Sunday during June, July & August. The menu will include pastries, fruit, yogurt, cereal, milk, juice, and coffee each week. Following breakfast, children grades K-5 will meet on the Great Hall Stage for the *Joyful Noise Bunch* based on Psalms 95, 98 & 150. The children will be introduced to various instruments and learn a few songs to present for worship later in the summer. Our goals are to deepen our children's spiritual lives by learning the importance of music in our corporate worship and to develop our children's appreciation for our music ministries. Youth grades 6-8 and 9-12 will combine for a Christian Music Survey of the various styles of Christian music from traditional to contemporary to contemplative. Parents are welcome to stay with their child(ren) and enjoy breakfast before returning to their regular Sunday School class or stay and help with cleanup.

**Sign Up for MUSICAMP**  
**Grades K-6**  
**June 4-8**  
**9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**



## Central Youth Summer Activities!

### Wednesday Night Specials

Central Youth (grades entering 6<sup>th</sup> - finishing 12<sup>th</sup>) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. We will enjoy supper, games, movies and swimming. Check for a menu on the CCC FORUMS. Central Youth will not meet on Sunday afternoons from June through August.

### 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!

### Camping Trip

August 9-12  
More to follow...

## Robert's Reflections

This spring strong thunderstorms have moved through our nation's mid-section, with lightning flashing, thunder booming and winds swirling. Thunderstorms have often been metaphors for the awesome power of God. Thunderstorms carry with them the power to grow abundant life and the power to snatch life away. I have always been a cautious admirer of storms.

Spring, the season of gradually increasing yet sometimes cool temperatures, lengthening daylight hours, plentiful rainfall, thunderstorms and new life sprouting and blooming abundant grants us many opportunities to reflect on the wonderful work of God's creative and ever-present power. We may be reminded of God's Spirit brooding over the chaotic waters bringing forth a diversity of life in many forms, shapes, colors, and sizes and naming every part of it "good." We may be reminded of God's life renewing breath blowing from the four corners of the earth into the valley of the dry bones and recreating life out of the grips of death. We may even be reminded of God's amazing work of grace and love, which raised our Lord and Savior from the tomb to grant such abundant life to each and to all.

This Sunday we celebrate the gift of God's Spirit as we observe the festival of Pentecost. The Greek name given to the Jewish festival of Shavuot, Pentecost occurs 50 days after Passover. In biblical times, Jews from all over the Roman Empire would congregate in Jerusalem for the festival. The Christian church also claims Pentecost as a festival day, falling at the end of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. At Pentecost, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which gave birth to the church. As recorded in Acts 2:1-41, the apostles were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival. They were all gathered together in one place when the Holy Spirit rushed through the room like a mighty wind and tongues of flame appeared on their heads. Empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel in the languages of many nations, they addressed all who were assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. It was a chaotic and confusing event, but amidst all the uproar, Peter preached the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection and 3000 people were baptized on that day.

Pentecost is one of the great festivals of the Christian church, the day we commemorate as the birthday of the church when Christ's mission of carrying the Good News to the entire world was passed on to us. Red banners and colorful vestments are used on this festival day. You are invited to wear red to church this Sunday as we celebrate the festival of Pentecost.

As we display our red clothing and liturgical paraments, receive a dove emblem as we enter worship, hear the diversity of God's voice in song and word, offer ourselves to God's love and grace, and receive the bread of life and the cup of salvation, let us be mindful of the wondrous and mighty works of God's creative, redemptive and sustaining power in our midst. And, let us be called forth to ministries of peace and justice, love and grace. Come Holy Spirit, Come!

*Robert*

## Six Days of Creation Sanctuary Banners

The first banner in the Six Days of Creation series will be hung in the sanctuary this Sunday. It is "Let There Be Light" and it is dedicated to the memory of *Etta Dash* (June 14, 1911-August 25, 2006).

**Central Educators Honored**

Beta Sigma Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for key women educators recently honored twenty-one members of twenty-five years of more including **Inabell Kirby** (53 years), **Lilabelle Traylor** (50 years), **Marilyn Mertz** (36 years), **Claudine Nichols** (31 years) and **Jahala DeMoulin** (26 years). Congratulations!

**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>.

**God is at Work in New Church Development!**

We are seeing God at work in our Region and throughout our denomination through the development of new churches. Just as God’s power enlivens and renews the spirit of existing congregations, new churches speak of God’s continuing creation. In our region alone, seven new churches have begun life and ministry since 2000. One in Milwaukee, three in Chicagoland, one each in Peoria and Springfield and southern Illinois. In this rich blend of Anglo and ethnic congregations, we see the church more closely reflecting the world we live in. New church planters and the core teams make great sacrifices to help start these congregations. Ministers are often bi-vocational, taking on work outside of parish ministry to support themselves and their families. Core team members offer scores of volunteer hours to work in evangelism and worship planning and small group ministries. These devoted followers maintain a bright outlook, fueled by God’s abundant spirit. One way that all Disciples congregations can be involved in this exciting movement is through the Pentecost Special Offering. Through prayer and giving, we can fuel these ministries and be faithful to the Great Commission to “Go and make disciples.” Your gift to the Pentecost Special Offering this Sunday will assist this vital ministry in our region and beyond. Thank you for your generous and prayerful gift to the Pentecost Special Offering.



**Counting On You**

**May 20**

Worship Attendance .....	286
Sunday School Attendance .....	40



**Sunday, May 27, 2007**

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services  
 Music: Offertory-Central Singers;  
 Marilyn Ward, Piano  
 10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
 9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Lucy Acheson  
 9:00-Sunday School  
 9:00-Senior Breakfast, Great Hall  
 10:30-Children’s Worship, 250

**Monday (28) Memorial Day Observed**  
 Church & Office Closed

**Tuesday (29)**  
 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
 9:00-12:00-Macon County Court Watch,  
 Disciple Room  
 10:00-Pastors’ Staff Meeting,  
 Senior Pastor’s Study  
 4:00-Aerobics, 290

**Wednesday (30)**  
 9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
 12:00-Central Singers  
 1:00-4:00-Banner Committee, 207  
 4:00-Aerobics, 290  
 7:00-Tour Choir Practice

**Thursday (31)**  
 10:00-Alanon, 212  
 4:00-Aerobics, 290  
 6:00-Homeward Bound Banquet,  
 Great Hall  
 7:00-Chancel Choir

**Friday (June 1)**  
 8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,  
 Great Hall/Heritage Center

**Evangelism Seeds**

“This is what one person has to say about why they share their faith ... “I started inviting people to church and they became Christians. Now nine of my friends who weren’t attending a church before are in my church. I love these people! I can’t tell you what it means to me to have had a part in helping them move into faith.”

From Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese

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**Serving Schedule—May 27, 2007**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:00 - Rebecca Johnston, Tom Spry

**Elders Serving Hospital Communion:**

**St. Mary's Hospital:** Jan Dobbs

**Decatur Memorial:** Jan Baird

**Deacons:**

8:00 - 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

10:00 - 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:**

8:00 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe

10:00 - Team 9 - Bruce, Carol, Allison, Jessica, & Maggie Stoddard

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Bob & Chloe Hoaglin, Virginia Griffith, Mary Kincaid

10:00 - Jim, Myra, Meagan, & Daniel Hinze

**Parish Nurse:** Lucy Acheson

**Acolytes:**

8:00 - Brad Munos

10:00 - Andrew Otis

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:00 - Jim Hinze

**Children's Worship:** Christine Lyman-Harm

**Preparation of Communion:**

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

**Van Drivers:**

8:00 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Keith Backes

10:00 service only - Richard Ward

**May 30 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

May 28 **Memorial Day Observed**  
Church & Office Closed

May 29 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 30 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 31 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 1 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

*(As you can see, we can use more help at the host desk. Please call **Joan Smith** or the church office to volunteer.)*

**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 Assistant  
Pat Beals ..... Administrative Assistant  
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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