



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, June 6, 2007

No. 22

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. You can also register by mail or fax.

For more information, visit 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.

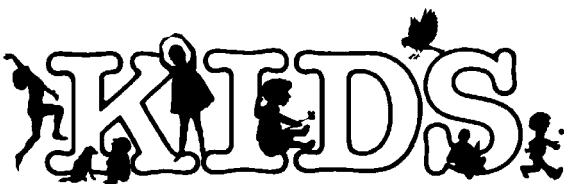


Vote for Week of Compassion with Your \$\$\$

For the past few weeks the children and youth Sunday School classes have been challenged to make a poster that depicts what offerings to Week of Compassion can do in their town, their country, and around the world. They have met that challenge. These posters will be on display in the Friendship Center for one more Sunday. The congregation is encouraged to vote for their favorite poster or posters by making a donation in the box for each poster. Donations will be sent to Week of Compassion earmarked for Sidell, Louisiana, the site of our June mission trip. Please support Week of Compassion and the children of Central by voting with your donations this Sunday!

Join the Thursday Kids Club

Plans are being made for Central's Thursday Kids Club for children grades 1-5 beginning Thursday, June 21st when we will celebrate the first day of summer with swimming, bubbles, and more! We will meet on Thursdays, June 28th, July 5th, & 12th and August 2nd & 16th. We will gather at 11 a.m. followed by a variety of activities including field trips to Rockome Gardens, New Salem State Park, Weldon Springs State



Park and Knights Action Park. We will return to Central by 5 p.m. Children will need to bring a sack lunch each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided. A \$5 activity fee will apply to each Thursday your child attends. Register this Sunday!

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

The Outsiders

Text: I Kings 8:22-23, 41-43;
Luke 7:1-10
Charles Watkins

Elderberries to Meet June 13th!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal and program and delightful fellowship together on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, June 13th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu includes Creamed



Chicken on a Biscuit, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad and Lemon Bars!

Following the meal, **Stuart Hawbaker** will share with us some gems from his weekly column, *The Week*.

To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark *Elderberries* next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. If you think you would like to come but are not yet sure, please go ahead and make a reservation. We would rather have food left over than not have prepared enough for everyone.

Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, June 11th, so don't delay, reserve your place today!

Central Youth Summer Activities!

Wednesday Night Specials

Central Youth (grades entering 6th - finishing 12th) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, June 13th and 20th. 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

Last Call

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

Glacier Canyon Inn

Youth entering 6th grade -
finishing 12th grade

Spend the week with your
friends from Central!

Indoor/Outdoor Water Parks

Youth Family Camping Trip

August 9-12

Pere Marquette

State Park

In addition to enjoying the spectacular view of the Illinois River and its backwaters from several points atop the bluffs, tent camping, hiking along the 12 miles of trails and a 20 mile paved bike trail await you! \$30 per person. Open to youth and families.

Charles's Column

It was helpful to read recently an essay by Jess Decourcy Hinds who was reflecting on condolence cards and phone calls after the recent death of her father. She noted how often what we say to each other in our attempts to be comforting come out as a denial of the true loss and grief that bereaved friends feel so acutely. Our spontaneous attempts to make the sorrow less painful (e.g., "he's in a better place now," "God called him home," "now she won't have to suffer any more," "you are lucky to have had her in your life for so long") are probably not as helpful as we want them to be.

Frequently we wonder, "What can I say in a card or in the line at the mortuary?" Here is the reflection of one grieving daughter: "I was 25 when I lost my father last fall. He was only 58, and his death from bone cancer was slow and excruciating. When I cry for my father, I cry for his suffering; I cry because he worked long, grueling hours to save for a retirement he never got to enjoy. I cry because my mother is alone. I cry because I have so much of my life ahead of me, and my father will miss everything. If I marry, if I have children, he won't be there. My grief is profound: I am mourning the past, present and future. I resent the condolence cards that hurry me through my grief, as if it were a dangerous street at night.

"Why don't people say, 'I am sorry for your loss' anymore? Why don't people accept that after a parent's death, there will be years of grief? I am still a responsible citizen and a good teacher, despite my grief. My grief is not a handicap. People seem to worry that if they encourage me to grieve openly, I will fall apart. I won't. On the contrary, if you allow me to be sad, I will be a stronger more effective person. . . . Here are my basic guidelines for mastering the Art of Condolence.

1. Always begin directly and simply. 'I am so sorry about your mother's death.'
2. It's better to ask, 'How are you?' or 'How are you feeling?' instead of telling someone how she should feel.
3. Never say 'I can't imagine what you are going through.' To me this translates as 'This is too hard for me, I don't want to think about it.'
4. Never give advice about how someone should get through the loss. Some mourners go to parties; others stay home with the shades drawn. Be open to the mourner's individual needs...and that these needs will change day to day.
5. If you want to offer something upbeat, share a funny anecdote or memory about the deceased that bring a smile to the mourner's face.

"We need to stop being afraid of public mourning. We need to be open to mourners. We need to look each other in the eye and say "I am so sorry."

(Jess Decourcy Hinds, "My Turn" in Newsweek, May 28, 2007)

I am going to take her advice to heart.

Charles Watkins

Public Forum on Islam

Masjid Wali Hasan the local Islamic mosque will host a panel discussion on the Islamic faith and Muslims on Saturday, June 16th from 1-3 p.m. at the Decatur Public Library Auditorium. The forum is entitled *Islam: Its Teachings, Perceptions and Misperceptions* and is open to the public.

News From the Pews....

Proud grandparents, **Judson & Jean Pease** announce the birth of their grandson, **Samuel Judson**, born May 4th to **Paul & Gabriela Pease** of Durham, New Hampshire. Big brother **Stephen** and sister **Emma Isabella** also welcome Samuel home.

Congratulations to **Mark Linton**, who graduated from Millikin University on May 20th with a degree in Finance and International Business. He also received a degree in International Business Management from the ESGCI Paris Graduate School of Management, Paris, France. Mark is the son of **Bob & Mary Jane Linton**.

Peace and Justice Task Force Planning Next Film Series

The Peace and Justice Task Force of Central Christian and the Peacemaking Committee of First Presbyterian are planning another film series that will begin this fall. We will be meeting this summer to select films and are looking for thought provoking films, either current or older, which deal with peace and justice issues. If you have any suggestions for films, please call the church office, 428-4336 or email **Pastor Robert** rbushey@cccdisciples.org by June 30. In previous years, we have seen films as diverse as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Hotel Rwanda*. After each film there is usually a lively discussion.

Preschool Recesses for Summer

Central Christian Preschool celebrated our 42nd year of early childhood education with an End of the Year Carnival complete with games, food, cotton candy, a clown and inflatable amusements. Our staff has indicated that they will all return for the 2007-2008 school year. Registration for fall classes is well underway with some classes already full. We will offer classes for Parents and Two's, Three and Four year olds, a Pre-Kindergarten class and an Illinois State Board of Education Pre-Kindergarten Class, which is our new collaborative effort with Baby Talk and the Preschool for All program of Illinois. We hope to be able to serve nearly one hundred preschool families in the fall.

Note of Thanks Received

I wish to thank all the ministers, the Keystone Class and all the others that visited and did acts of kindness during my time of surgery. Love and prayer helps in the healing process.

Warren Berner

Evangelism Seeds

"Faith sharing changes the lives of Christians who do it. Many have shared striking experiences. When they started learning to articulate their own faith and to share it with others, they began to see "coincidences," "answers to prayer," "miracles." Life felt different. They were more aware of tiny promptings from the Spirit. They say this new life with the Spirit felt even richer when they started seeing changes in the lives of the people with whom they talked about their faith. They never want to go back to the old days of mute, and muted, faith!"

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



Sunday, June 10, 2007

8:00 and 10:00- Worship Services
Music: Offertory- Leslie Peart, Organist
10:00- Anthem- Chancel Choir
8:45- Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall
9:00-9:45- Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:00- Sunday School
9:15- Joyful Noise Club, Stage
9:15- Young Adults, Great Hall

Monday (11)

8:00- Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
9:00- Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

Tuesday (12)

9:00- ChristCare Stitches, 207
10:00- Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
5:00- C.A.D.V. Dept., Disciple Room

Wednesday (13)

9:00- Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00- Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
12:00- Central Singers
6:00-8:30- Youth Mid-Week Special at
Robert Bushey's house

Thursday (14)

10:00- Alanon, 212
7:00- Chancel Choir

Friday (15)

8:00- Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center

Saturday (16)

8:00- Hunger Relief Task Force,
Great Hall Kitchen
11:00- Hunger Relief Serving Team,
Good Samaritan Inn

Counting On You

June 3

Worship Attendance 255
Sunday School Attendance 59

Serving Schedule—June 10, 2007

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Keith Backes, Kevin Wilmot

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Debbie Bateman
Philip Bateman
Azalee Berner
Warren Berner
Dale Ford
Judy Ford
Alex Harm
Christine Lyman-Harm
Richard Ward
Theresa Fulk

Elders

Barbara Tyler
Jan Dobbs
Mike Holbrook
Wayne Honeycutt
Claudia Quigg
Janet Lyman
Lois Whitaker
Keith Backes
Kevin Wilmot
Rebecca Johnston
Alternate: Mark Beal

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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Ropp
10:00 - Team 6 -Maxine Koenig, Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

Greeters:

8:00 - Bob & Wanda Webb, Ed & Joy Adams
10:00 - Bruce & Carol Stoddard, Janet & Larry Thicksten

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Acolytes:

8:00 - Sam Funk
10:00 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
10:00 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Ed & Joy Adams, Carol Charlton, Bess & Harold King

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
Sunday School and 10:00 service - Jan Patrick
10:00 service only - Karen Baird

June 13 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew

Hosts:

June 11 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis
June 12 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer
June 13 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward
June 14 9:00-12:30 - Pat Ash
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
June 15 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 Assistant
Pat Beals Administrative Assistant
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 Caretaker
David Flanders Caretaker
Dean Hadden Caretaker
Charles Wallace Caretaker

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



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(Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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