



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, June 13, 2007

No. 23

Oasis Day Center in Jeopardy of Closure

Nearly nine years ago Central's Mission Allocation Task Group designated five thousand dollars of undesignated estate funds to help launch the Oasis Day Center, a city-wide collaborative effort for the homeless right here in Decatur. Oasis opened soon afterwards on North Water Street where it quickly became obvious that the need for such a shelter would require more space. A generous community fund drive helped Oasis acquire and renovate the former Easter Seals building at 234 West Cerro Gordo Street. The center is open seven days a week from 7a.m. to 5p.m., provides hygiene facilities, health services, social and mental health services, access to telephone and mail services, and a warm space in the winter as well as a safe and cool space during the summer for our most vulnerable neighbors. Now, after having served nearly one thousand people from our community between July 2006 and April 2007, changes in state funding for mental health threaten to radically reduce the hours of operation or worse close this one of a kind facility in Central Illinois which is barely rivaled by such facilities in larger cities. Appeals are being made to the Illinois Department of Human Services and Mental Health by Heritage Behavior Health Center which operates as fiscal agent for the center. The center is governed by a volunteer Advisory Board of which Pastor Robert has been a member since the center opened in 1999. If you would like more information on how you can help save the Oasis Day Center contact Pastor Robert.

Ladies Night Out June 26th

Women and friends of Central are invited to join together for Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, June 26th at 6 p.m. We'll gather at O'Charley's in Forsyth for a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, great food, door prizes and laughter! You may order off the menu and will have separate checks. Dinner items average \$10-15 and a 15% gratuity will be added. Bring your grown daughter, mother or friend for a great evening out. You may sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the Friendship Center this Sunday or call the church office so we can confirm our reservation! See you at O'Charley's on June 26th!

Volunteer Opportunities with Faith in Action

Faith in Action of Macon County is an ecumenical outreach ministry which provides assistance to elderly folks, allowing them to maintain their independence and remain in their own homes. Volunteers are urgently needed for transportation to appointments and help with meals, minor repairs around the house and visitation. If you are interested in learning more about Faith in Action and the ways you can become involved, speak with Pastor Gretchen or call Bethany Edgcombe. A smiling face, a kind touch, a caring gesture can make a world of difference to someone in our community. Please consider volunteering with Faith in Action.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2007

WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

Who Loves More?

Text: Luke 7:36-8:3

Charles Watkins

Chancel Choir on Tour This Week

Please keep members of the Chancel Choir and other traveling partners in your thoughts and prayers this week as they journey throughout Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Iowa on tour this week. They will be giving daily concerts as well as participating in mission and sight-seeing activities along the way. You may keep up-to-date with their progress and activities by checking our website at www.cccdisciples.org. Progress reports and photos will be posted each evening.

Thursday Kids Club Begins

Central's Thursday Kids Club for children grades 1-5 is set to begin on Thursday, June 21st when we will celebrate the first day of summer with swimming, bubbles, and more! We will also 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!



Central Youth Summer Activities!

Wednesday Night Specials

Central Youth (grades entering 6th - finishing 12th) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, June 20th, July 19th, August 1st & 15th. 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.

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
\$50 per person!
www.glaciercanyonlodge.com

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! Cost is \$30 per person. Open to youth and families.

Charles's Column

You and I are part of an extraordinary congregation. Our focus on mission, our amazing lay leadership, our fabulous facilities, and a talented staff all contribute to the strength of our ministry together. I regularly read the weekly or monthly newsletters of dozens of churches, and whenever I turn from that stack to the stack of matters needing attention and action at Central, I recognize that I am greatly blessed to be associated with you in ministry in this time and place.

Last week, we received from the book bindery in Urbana the latest bound volumes of newsletters and bulletins from 2005 and 2006. They have now joined the books on the shelves in the senior pastor's study which include bound copies of every issue of *The Central Visitor* ever published across the past seventy-nine years. The newsletter that you are holding in your hand is just the latest issue of a publication that has been issued continuously since 1928 when Pastor Carrell Flewelling first started publishing a weekly summary of news and activities in our congregation. When you thumb through the older volumes and then turn to the newer ones, what stands out is the consistent focus on mission and service that turns out to be the key to our vitality as a congregation.

Central Christian Church of Decatur is among the twenty-five largest congregations in our denomination, but it is the tenth largest contributor to the Disciples Mission Fund. You are far and away the largest givers to denominational mission both General and Regional among congregations in Illinois and Wisconsin. That is certainly one reason you were recognized with the first James P. Johnson Stewardship Award ever to be presented to a Disciples congregation by the Christian Church Foundation in Indianapolis. I think that your generosity and outreaching spirit are the source of our congregation's strength.

While mission outreach has apparently always been part of this congregation's DNA, another consistent characteristic of our life together has been the high quality of lay leadership which has guided our life together across many generations. We look back in amazement at the visionary leadership that began to envision our present building back in the darker days of World War II. The superior quality of the facilities on our campus which house our mission and ministries today originated in those days but have been maintained and improved by subsequent generations of excellent leaders. As the contractor was installing a fresh new sealcoat on our parking lots with bright new stripes last week, I was thinking back fifty years to a time when Central did not own a single parking space.

While we have a notable record of past achievement, we continue to be focused on the future and on the ministries that Christ calls us to carry on today and tomorrow. I am so glad that you respond willingly to Christ's call, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve Christ with you at Central.

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....

Congratulations to **Chris Stock**, who graduated from Millikin University on May 20th with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. He also received the Dorothea F. Dean Nursing Award for an outstanding nursing student with a profound interest in public health nursing. Chis is the son of **Lloyd & Susie Stock** and the grandson of **Dave & Pat Ash**.

Phoenix II Alternative School Completes 2nd Year

The Phoenix II alternative school for teen moms and expectant moms has helped nearly 60 teenagers make the transition to parenting while continuing their education since it began in 2005, according to a recent Baby TALK publication. Housed primarily on the second floor of Central's 1954 building, the Phoenix II program is a collaborative program between Baby TALK and the Decatur Public Schools. Classes in English, social studies, math and parenting meet in the afternoons. The teen's child is cared for by early intervention teachers in our nursery while mom is in class. Most often the goal is for the new mom to transition back into her regular classroom in one of the area high schools so that she may continue working towards her diploma. Students in the program have access to counseling from Heritage Behavioral Health Center, a pediatrician, an infant mental health specialist and a case manager to assist with parenting needs. Throughout the school year family nights are held, including an end of the year talent show and celebration held at the end of May.

Note of Thanks Received

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your most generous gift to our kids at Webster Cantrell Hall. Your support of our endowment campaign is deeply appreciated, and it will impact lives for generations. Thank you for making a difference.

Sincerely,
Debbie England

Evangelism Seeds

"Most of us are fairly knotted up as people. We're anxious, worried, stewing, angry or afraid. The Gospel is about freedom in Christ. Think of all the strands that tie us up – death, sin, fear, anger, addictions, nasty gossiping, fussy tediousness, age-old resentments, self-involvement. The Gospel, the Good News, is about freedom in Christ. It is about knots being untied, ropes loosened, ties unbound."

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

Counting On You

June 10

Worship Attendance 275
Sunday School Attendance 57



Sunday, June 17, 2007

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Ward & Marilyn Mertz, Piano Duet
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:45-Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall
9:15-Joyful Noise Club, Stage
9:15-Young Adults, Great Hall
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jeannie Backes
9:00-Sunday School

Monday (18)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics, Great Hall/Heritage Center
1:00-4:00-Autism Drama Workshop, Great Hall Stage
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-MCCOCP, Disciple Room

Tuesday (19)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
1:00-4:00-Autism Drama Workshop
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Wednesday (20)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
1:00-4:00-Autism Drama Workshop
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Fellowship Dept., Disciple Room
6:00-8:30-Youth Mid-Week Special, Robert Bushey's house

Thursday (21)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-4:00-Autism Drama Workshop
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (22)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics, Great Hall/Heritage Center
1:00-4:00-Autism Drama Workshop

Serving Schedule—June 17, 2007

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Roe Skidmore, Mary Jane Linton

Deacons:

8:00 - 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

10:00 - 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 Swarthat, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Carl Boline, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston

10:00 - Team 7 - Karen McFadin, Chad McFadin, Jon French, Jane French, Clyde Booher

Greeters:

8:00 - Norma Mason, Bill & Mary Alice Rule

10:00 - Keith & Jeannie Backes, Glen & Jody Featherstun

Parish Nurse:

 Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

8:00 - Jarrett Bednar

10:00 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:00 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Doug Soebbing

10:00 service only - Keith Backes

June 20 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

Hosts:

June 18 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

June 19 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

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

June 20 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

June 21 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

June 22 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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 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

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.



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

