



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, June 20, 2007

No. 25



## Chancel Choir Completes Tour

The Chancel Choir and others traveling with them returned home Sunday evening from a wonderful week of touring across the Midwest. You can share in some of their adventures and experiences by going to [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org).

## Disciples World Magazine Needs Your Support

The history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) includes several periodical publications dating back to the 1830's when Alexander Campbell was publishing *The Millennial Harbinger*. Disciple's publications have nearly always presented conversation and debate about the character and witness of Christian faith. The current publication of our church is the *Disciples World* magazine with Verity Jones as editor. Current issues are full of news and dialogue relating our faith to the contemporary culture in meaningful ways. According to Jones, "from historical notes and editorial commentary, to biblical exposition and stories of mission and transformation, *Disciples World* is your connection to disciples worldwide." We are very fortunate to have a quality publication like *Disciples World*!

Central currently subscribes with 20 issues of *Disciples World* that are made available for free in the Welcome Center near the church office. You may pick up a free copy anytime or you may browse current and past issues online at [www.disciplesworld.com](http://www.disciplesworld.com), the official website of the magazine. Many of you are already subscribers at the reasonable rate of \$31 for ten issues per year. According to the latest issue of the magazine, more subscriptions are needed to continue the publication past the next issue. If you are already a subscriber and enjoy the content of this wonderful resource for Disciples, perhaps you may consider a gift to the magazine or a gift subscription for someone you believe may enjoy it as much as you do. If you are not a subscriber, perhaps you should give *Disciples World* a try. You may fill out a subscription form at the church office or pick up one on Sunday morning.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007**  
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00  
**One in Christ Jesus**  
Text: Galatians 3:23-29  
Charles Watkins

## Ladies Night Out June 26<sup>th</sup>

Women and friends of Central are invited to join together for Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>!



*Jim Rogers transferred his membership to Central on Sunday, June 17.*



## Central Youth Summer Activities!

Wisconsin Dells Trip  
July 8-15

Glacier Canyon Inn

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

\$50 per person!

[www.glaciercanyonlodge.com](http://www.glaciercanyonlodge.com)

### Wednesday Night Specials

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

Youth Family Camping Trip  
August 9-12

Pere Marquette State Park

In addition to enjoying  
the spectacular view of the  
Illinois River and its backwa-  
ters 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

The Welcome Center in our church next to the church office was conceived by the Evangelism Department nine years ago as a place that would be attractive to children and that would create a warm sense of welcome to visitors of all generations. It is furnished with antiques from the bequest of Disciples missionaries to Africa, soft leather couches and chair to comfort weary bones, a large aquarium of tropical fish, a framed engraving of a child shepherd, and two pairs of stuffed lions and lambs. The vision was correct: the area is a magnet for kids as intended.

The quite obvious message of this center is the eschatological hope of Jewish and Christian faith most clearly articulated by the prophet Isaiah: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6) For thousands of years, the hope of our faith has looked toward that ideal future in which this strife-torn world that we know so well becomes the peaceable kingdom. The child shepherd on the wall and the stuffed toy lions and lambs and even the fish in the aquarium confirm our longing for the great day when God's will is finally done on earth as it is in heaven: "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9) Our eschatological hope is our hope for how everything turns out in the end.

In the current issue of *Theology Today*, Clyde J. Steckel, emeritus professor of theology at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, where he was also dean and formerly chaplain and professor religion at Illinois College, writes his "Confessions of a Post Eschatologist." For him like many of us, eschatology held everything together, supplementing a scientific worldview with the promise that one day the lion would lie down with the lamb and all things would live together in harmony and peace: "Eschatology gave human history a progressive trajectory toward that blessed time when oppression and violence would cease and justice with peace would prevail."

In his article, he confesses that in his retirement he has become a post-eschatologist. In taking stock and searching his soul, he can no longer organize the reality he sees in the world around this eschatological vision because he more and more sees it breeding fanaticism with all its terrible consequences. I understand his view when I see our children using the stuffed lions and lambs in our eschatological nook as punching bags and objects of violence instead of as comforting symbols of peace. I cringe to imagine what God thinks when he watches how the hopes of our ancient faith are fairing in this violent world.

I am not ready yet to give up on our eschatological hope, even though I find Dr. Steckel's observations and arguments compelling. Maybe when I am older and wiser, I will join him there. But for now I will agree with him that we need to practice greater modesty about our eschatological claims and forego any sense that we are able through our human effort to achieve the dream Isaiah saw.

*Charles Watkins*

### Mission Trip Begins Sunday

Two members of Prairie Avenue Christian Church and two members of Central will leave Sunday, June 24th on a week-long mission trip to Slidell, Louisiana as part of our Hurricane Relief project. **Connie Green, Matt DeCosse, Donna Dash** and **Robert Bushey** will be working on rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes in the Slidell area. Please pray for our missionaries as they travel and serve our neighbors in Slidell.

## Happy Birthday!

Frank Beaman will celebrate his 102nd birthday on Friday, June 22, with his family at home. He has been a proud member of Central Christian Church for 61 years.

## Tax-Free Contribution From Your IRA?

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 provided for the possibility, for 2006 and 2007 only, of making tax-free charitable gifts directly from an individual's traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) if the donor is 70 ½ years of age or older.

Under this provision, one may make a gift directly from IRA funds that would be taxable if withdrawn voluntarily or under mandatory withdrawal requirements. Donors may choose to make charitable gifts up to \$100,000 under this act.

Each person's circumstances are unique, so please consult your financial advisors about the best way for you to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Several members of Central have taken advantage of this opportunity and significantly benefited our congregation. If you need more information, please contact the church office.

## Evangelism Seeds

"If faith and church have changed your life, you'll want to share that discovery with your friends. You want everyone to know that Christ lives. You want everyone to know that God will overwhelm their souls with grace and wash away sins. You want everyone to understand to the soles of their feet that there is no sin, no resentment, no bitterness, no wound, no fear, no illness, no loneliness that Christ cannot forgive, dissolve, heal, cure, fill. You want everyone to know that God, the Great I Am, the God who says "before Abraham was, I Am" the God of infinity is there to lead them by the hand into forever, into an eternity of powerful love. Nothing is more beautiful than this good news."

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

## 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 Edgecombe. 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.

## Counting On You

June 17

Worship Attendance ..... 247

Sunday School Attendance ..... 48



## Sunday, June 24, 2007

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Spannaus Family  
Anthem-Spannaus Family  
8:45-Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw  
9:00-Sunday School  
9:15-Joyful Noise Club, Stage  
9:15-Young Adults, Great Hall

## Monday (25)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
1:00-3:00-Autism Drama Workshop,  
Great Hall Stage  
4:00-Aerobics, 290

## Tuesday (26)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
1:00-3:00-Autism Drama Workshop  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-Ladies Night Out, O'Charley's

## Wednesday (27)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
12:00-Central Singers  
1:00-3:00-Autism Drama Workshop  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290  
6:00-Shepherding Department,  
Volunteer Room

## Thursday (28)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:00-3:00-Autism Drama Workshop  
1:00-Banner Team, 210  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (29)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall  
10:00-Trustees meeting, Disciple Room  
5:00-Wedding Rehearsal

## Saturday (30)

3:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Liz Kubala &  
Kyle Floyd

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## Serving Schedule—June 24, 2007

### Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Jan Baird, Keith Backes

### Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

**St. Mary's Hospital:** Bruce Campbell

**Decatur Memorial:** Mike Holbrook

### 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 Bolin, 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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Kim Downey, Ryan Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey

10:00 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Greeters:

8:00 - Steve & Juanita Ballance, Gene & Sandy Garver

10:00 - Bruce & Felicity Williams, Florence Bolin, Pam Ferguson

**Parish Nurse:** Jane Latshaw

### Acolytes:

8:00 - Brad & Bobby Munos

10:00 - Jessica Brooks

### P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:00 - Jim Hinze

### Preparation of Communion:

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

### Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Keith Backes

10:00 service only - Richard Ward

### June 27 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

### Hosts:

June 25 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

June 26 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders

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

June 27 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

June 28 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

June 29 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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**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 Burkhram, 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

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