



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, June 27, 2007

No. 26

Helping Our Neighbors in Need

Through generous contributions throughout the year, the Central Emergency Fund provides emergency assistance for individuals and families who find themselves in times of need. Through gifts such as assistance with prescription medicines, transportation assistance and a variety of other types of gifts, Central reaches out to our neighbors through the fund. Working closely with agencies such as the Macon Assistance eXchange (MAX) program, the Good Samaritan Inn (soup kitchen), the Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry, the Oasis Day Center, DOVE, and Catholic Charities, Central works with persons in need or in crisis. The Emergency Fund exists **completely** through donations from members and friends of Central. This Sunday, July 1st and next Sunday, July 8th, we will receive a special offering for the Emergency Fund. Envelopes are provided in the pew pockets. Please, consider this vital outreach ministry for our neighborhood and wider community with a gift to the fund. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of people right here in Decatur.



ChristCare Stitches Dedicate Quilts for Camp Coco

This past week, the ChristCare Stitches dedicated 11 additional quilts to be sent to Camp Coco, making a total of 69 quilts this summer given to the young campers from the hands of our own stitchers! Camp Coco is an area camp for children with cancer. Many of the young people are undergoing chemo and other treatments and really appreciate the warm and snuggly blanket that brings comfort, security and love. The quilts dedicated this week were made with fabric that was selected by **Ernestine Mrozinski** and **Jan Sperry** before their deaths and donated to The Stitches by their families. These most recent quilts bring the stitchers total blanket count to nearly 3,800 for the past seven years, most of which have been distributed through the Project Linus organization. The ChristCare Stitches meet each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (with time out for a leisurely lunch). No experience is necessary and all hands are needed and appreciated as they cut, piece, sew, assemble and label quilts and crochet, knit or stitch infant blankets. You are welcome anytime to join this active, fun-loving group. For more information, speak with Jane French.

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Costly Freedom
Text: Exodus 10:3-11
Charles Watkins

Telephones for the Twenty-first Century

The telephone system that has served our congregation since the dedication of the Nichols Wing two decades ago is old enough to vote. It is also obsolete and unable to be repaired. Through the building fund campaign *Preserving our Past... Securing our Future 2006-2009*, your gifts are providing a twenty-first century telephone system for our church.

The new phone system has been installed this week, and it has capabilities that staff and volunteers are still discovering. Soon you can call the church and leave a voice-mail message even when the office is closed. Our church has never before had after-hours answering capability. The Operations Department chaired by **Steve Swarthout** is working to assure that the new phone system will serve you well and not frustrate you with confusing phone trees. During normal office hours, your call will still be answered by a cheerful person (unless three calls are coming in at one time). And at other times, we hope our new system will help you communicate your message or question to the church effectively through an automated attendant.

Please be patient with us as we learn how to use a modern telephone system which has so many more features than we are used to.



Central Youth Summer Activities!

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

Wednesday Night Specials

Central Youth (grades
entering 6th - finishing 12th) are
invited to Pastor Robert's home,
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 through July and
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 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

At the June meeting of the Church Council, the opening devotional moments, which always help our governing board focus on why we are gathered, were presented by Fred Spannaus, Vice-president for Mission and Service. Fred reflected on a Spannaus family reunion, a gathering of over 70 descendants of his grandparents. In that gathering was an amazing diversity of opinions, life-styles, vocations, political convictions, ages, and interests. He saw unlikely combinations of really different people conversing gladly and enjoying each other—people who in another setting might not have much to say to each other, but who as family could enjoy one another's company even though they could readily take strongly opposing positions on any number of issues and concerns.

What Fred observed at his family reunion is exactly what I observe each Sunday during the Lord's Supper. We have lots of different ways of living and believing and thinking and feeling in that weekly gathering. Some people are nodding their heads during the sermon (and not just because they are dozing), and some are frowning seriously as they ponder and perhaps disagree. Some people are enjoying the hymn singing, while others are feeling left out because the hymn is too new or too old. Some people are in church to thank God for amazing grace and abundant blessings, and others are there trying to understand why things in their lives are turning out the way they are. Some are glad, some are sad, some are anxious, some are calm and content. Some are filled with grief, while others are filled with hope.

But then as the service reaches its climax and the bread of life is broken and the cup of salvation is lifted, there is amazing unanimity. All eyes are open and intent and focused on the Table of the Lord. All ears are alert. And even though the words of institution are almost the same every Sunday, every believer in the house is tuned in as if each is hearing urgent and important news. In the church we call it the Good News, of course.

And what the Spannaus family reunion and the weekly communion service in Central's sanctuary share is that sense that each is a little sample of the great heavenly banquet which the Bible tells us awaits the faithful in the life beyond. The Spannaus family reunion and the Lord's Supper at Central are previews and preludes to our Christian hope that one day the whole human family will be united in feasting and celebration and joy that extends into eternity in the blessed presence of God.

The Spannaus family reunion, which was such a blessing to our worship service last Sunday may not take place again until next year. But the joyous feast of the people of God will be spread upon the Lord's Table at Central this Sunday and upon a million other tables across the globe. Don't miss it!

Charles Watkins

Chancel Choir Tour Program and Choir Appreciation

On Sunday July 22, in ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m., the Chancel Choir will lead worship with the program that they shared with churches on their recent tour. This service will include the same elements as our regular services but will have more anthems by the choir.

Following the service, the Worship Department will arrange a reception for the Choir in the friendship center. There you can greet the Choir members and show your appreciation for what they do in worship all year.

News From the Pews...

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bruce and Liz Campbell** and family following the death of Bruce's sister-in-law *Marlene Campbell* in Laramie, Wyoming on June 19.....and to **Virginia Ferre** following the June 23rd death of her husband, *Guy Ferre*.....and to the family of *Otha Lanier*, who passed away June 26 in Tulsa, OK.

Congratulations to **Rob Miller**, who graduated from The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University on May 17, with a Masters of Arts in Audio Sciences. Rob is the son of **David & Katie Miller**, who also proudly announce the marriage of their son, **Rob** to Jeanesse Rodeffer on June 16 in Seattle, WA.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to all of my Central family for all of the prayers, cards and visits you have blessed me with over the past few months.

Ski Mrozinski

Note: Ski is now living in Washington state with his daughter, Margo. His new address is available in the church office.



A special thanks to all of the ministers and friends at Central for their visits, calls, cards and prayers during my hospital stay. They have all meant a lot to me. I am home and doing better.

Maria Jacobs

Your Property Department at Work

Through the efforts of the Property Department chaired by **Gene Garver**, all parking areas at the church have been repaired and sealed with fresh, new striping. Although this work is expensive and has pushed our church treasury into a deficit for the second time this year, it is absolutely necessary maintenance. The water system to the church garage has been repaired. The roof over the 1976 addition has been repaired, and soon the stairwell will be repainted. The west door which suffered a shattering blow from the planter in the drive-way one Friday night has been repaired. The staff entrance which took a bee-bee blast and then cracked in the winter cold has a new plate glass.

Evangelism Seeds

"Once you have a rich faith life and a healthy church, your questions shift from, 'Why would I do evangelism?' to 'Oh, Lord, how can I help people see your face? Show me today, lead me to the ones you can reach through me. Let me be part of what you want to do next.'"

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

Counting On You

June 24

Worship Attendance 321
Sunday School Attendance 55



Sunday, July 1, 2007

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: 8:00 Offertory-Central Singers
10:00 Offertory-Women of the Choir
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:45-Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Cindy Soebbing
9:00-Sunday School
9:15-Joyful Noise Club, Stage
9:15-Young Adults, Great Hall

Monday (2)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

Tuesday (3)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study

Wednesday (4)

Church & Office Closed

Thursday (5)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-Banner Team, 210
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (6)

9:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

Homeward Bound Sends Thanks

Thank you so much for your hosting the 4th *Homeward Bound Building Lives Banquet!* The event was held on May 31, 2007. More than 160 people were in attendance.

Homeward Bound is a transitional and intensive case management program that works with homeless individuals and families in Macon County. We provide supportive services and housing to over 700 people a year.

The Building Lives Banquet is one way that we provide encouragement and incentive to those participating in our program and your hosting the event made this possible. The banquet was a great way to say "Good Job!" to those attempting to put their lives back in order.

Lore Baker, Director

Serving Schedule—July 1, 2007

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Chris Fagin, Donna Strong

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Mary Jane Linton & Keith Backes

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 Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

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 - David & Connie Shields

10:00 - David Ash, Mary Boyle, Bob & Billie Harmon

Parish Nurse: Cindy Soebbing

Acolytes:

10:00 - Rachel Ash

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:00 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:00 service only - Bruce Williams

July 3 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Janet Gray

Hosts:

July 2 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

July 3 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford

July 4 Church & Office Closed

July 5 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson

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

July 6 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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 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

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