



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, July 3, 2007

No. 27

About the New Telephones at Church

Here is some information that may help you as we accustom ourselves to the new phone system at Central.

- To call out from any phone in the church, press “9” to get a dial tone
- To reach the front office from any phone, press “0” (zero)
- None of the phones in public areas or hallways can call outside the 217 area code.
- Each phone in the church now has its own three-number extension. You can get a directory of the extensions from the automated attendant, or you can get a printed list of extension numbers from the office, or you can be connected directly by the staff member or volunteer who answers your call.
- As before, church staff will try to answer your call personally, but when the volume of calls is large, or when the office is closed, there will be an automated attendant to help you leave a message at any hour of the day or night.
- To reach a custodian after office hours, press “109” when the automated attendant answers your call.
- Each staff member has a voice-mail box which you can access through either the live or automated attendant who takes your call.
- When you are calling for a staff member who is away from the church, you can leave a call-back message with one of the administrative staff in the front office, or you may be invited to leave your own voice mail message.
- Thanks for your patience as the staff learns the most efficient use of the new system. We are making every effort to limit confusion and to make the system easy for you to use.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, July 11th!

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, July 11th at noon in the Great Hall. This month’s menu includes Chicken Salad on a Croissant, chips, fresh fruit, sherbet and a cookie! Following the meal, **Shirley Swarthout** will share highlights and photos from the choir’s recent tour through Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Iowa!

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, July 9th, so don’t delay, reserve your place today!

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
**Givers/Participants/
Go-ers/Tellers**
Text: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Gretchen Barron

Special Worship on July 22

On July 22nd the congregation will worship God in a single worship service at 10:00 a.m. The service will include much of the Chancel Choir’s western concert tour along with the Lord’s Supper.

Following the service, the congregation will honor the choir in a reception in the Friendship Center. There you can greet the choir members and show your appreciation for what they do in worship all year.

Second Day of Creation Banner

The Pentecost set of banners shifts this week from the first day of creation “Let there be light,” to the second day of creation, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters”—the sky.

Water falls from the clouds in a rainstorm, and water exists in the form of lakes, rivers, and seas on earth. The writer of this text believed that the waters “above” were separated from the waters “below” by means of a dome, the sky. This belief is an affirmation of God’s creation of an orderly world, one made by reliable, divine Law. The image of the playful waves below the sky is borrowed from a stone wall in the Forbidden City in the heart of Beijing, China.

Each banner in the series has been designed and fabricated by volunteers at Central in memory of *Etta Dash*.



Central Youth Summer Activities!

Wisconsin Dells Trip July 8-15

Glacier Canyon Inn

We will be leaving from the church parking lot at 1:30 p.m. this Sunday, July 8th.

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 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 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.

If Ever There Was Hope

Shading the lawn behind the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Slidell, Louisiana, a majestic oak tree named The Oak of Hope stands as a steady reminder of the abundant hope flourishing in the face of unfathomable despair and destruction left by hurricane Katrina during the last days of August 2005. The tree survived the storm winds with some damage but faired exceptionally well when compared to the enormous damage done to homes, businesses, infrastructures and nature. After a week of mission work in this town nestled on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish, just northeast of New Orleans, I have concluded that if ever there was hope, I have found it.

Our small but mighty group from Central Christian Church and Prairie Avenue Christian Church arrived at the corner of Robert Blvd. and Christian Ln. in Slidell near 10 p.m. on Sunday evening, June 24th stiff, tired and excited about our week of work to help out our sisters and brothers in Slidell. We were warmly greeted, in spite of the lateness of the hour, by Marvin, one of our hosts. After rolling out our beds and becoming oriented in our new home away from home, we shared a prayer of thanksgiving for safe travels. And, within the first thirty minutes we learned how appreciative the folks were of all who have come to help and those who will as the recovery continues.

On Monday morning, we gathered with more than 200 other volunteers who had come from a dozen other places (represented by the flags, pictured on page 3) at the Northshore Disaster Recovery Inc. headquarters at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. We learned that after nearly two years of efforts, NDRI had helped thousands of families return to their homes and that there are still 2500 FEMA trailers (reduced from 13,000 trailers in 2005) occupied in Slidell alone. New Orleans is another story for later. The primary source of funds and labor for the recovery efforts has and continues to be through religious and civic groups. NDRI estimates another year before the FEMA trailers are gone from Slidell and is preparing to begin operations in New Orleans.

We set out into the eighty-plus degree temperatures and high humidity with our supplies and tools to begin our work at a house on Liberty Lane. Our tasks for the week included finishing walls built by previous teams, mudding, sanding, and general repairs to a home that had more than two feet of water throughout. Gracious neighbors with a very cute baby and super nice dog provided our electricity, water source and our restroom facilities. The homeowner worked at her job most of the day and was staying in her FEMA trailer across the street with her elderly mother who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. One member of our group worked at another home most of the week, crawling underneath to hang insulation in the floor joists and chicken wire to prevent critters from building nests.

I have much more to share and will in the coming weeks. Photos and comments will also soon be available on our website. As I celebrate our nation's birthday this week, I will pause to remember the house on Liberty Lane where the human spirit, fueled by God's love and compassion, is breaking through the bondage of tragedy and despair to soon set a family free from their temporary shelter and all of the emotions that came with hurricane force.

Peace & Joy,
Robert

News From the Pews....

Welcome to **Clare Margaret Rutherford**, born on June 27 in Hastings, Minnesota, to **Kevin & Sarah Rutherford**. Glad grandparents are **Wayne & Donna Rutherford**, and happy great-grandparents are **Bill & Eleanor Rutherford**.

Property Department Progress

The Board of Trustees of the church has authorized internal financing which allows for a new shuttle-type bus to be delivered to Central this week. It has a low-step entry for easy access, grab bars at the entry, and a wheel chair lift. Our carriage house on the west end of the parking lot has been modified to accommodate the height of the new bus. So now the church has a fifteen passenger 1995 Chevrolet van for sale with low mileage (it's been driven only to and from church). The huge Kewanee boiler that has heated the church building since 1955 has been cut up and removed, and the space is being prepared to receive two new high-efficiency 2 million BTU hot-water furnaces this summer.

Your generous and faithful giving to the Building Fund at Central Christian Church is making all this progress possible.

Note of Thanks Received

Bill and I want to say how much your stop in Nebraska for dinner meant to us. Not only did I get to see my sister, Connie Bordner, but also renew some old friendships with Church friends and meet some new folks, too. We hope the choir enjoyed dinner at Farmer Brown's in the Village of Waterloo. Come back when you can sit a spell on the porch with us and the "hounds". Again, thanks for the SPECIAL treat!

Linda (Irwin) and Bill Clark



Flags of Hope at Northshore Disaster, Inc., Slidell, Louisiana
(see article on page 2)

Evangelism Seeds

"Church is an igniter of faith that affects your whole life. Members of great congregations think of spiritual growth; surrender of self; healing of bodies, addictions, marriages, wounded souls; and serving others when they hear the word *church!*"

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



Sunday, July 8, 2007

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Meagan Hinze, Flute
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
8:45-Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:00-Sunday School
9:15-Joyful Noise Club, Great Hall Stage
9:15-Young Adults, Great Hall
1:30-Youth leave for Wisconsin Dells

Monday (9)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Play Day/Picnic Committee

Tuesday (10)

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

Wednesday (11)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
12:00-Central Singers
4:00-Aerobics, 290

Thursday (12)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-5:00-Banner Team, 210
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (13)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

Saturday (14)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

July 1

Worship Attendance297
Sunday School Attendance 53

Serving Schedule—July 8, 2007

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Carol Graham, Julie Martin

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Dee Hill	Carol Graham
Doug Soebbing	Bruce Campbell
Charlotte Ballance	Larry Otis
Jane Davis	Bob Smith
Andy Fulk	Brett Swallow
Sherri Hood	Tom Spry
Bob Keller	Shirley Swarhout
Karen Keller	Mike Holbrook
Nicole Ropp	Mary Jane Oliver
Ron Oliver	Jan Baird
	Alternate: Julie Martin

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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Ruby Agnew, Willie Birkhead, Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos

10:00 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Marilyn Blank, Bob Harmon, Billie Harmon

Greeters:

8:00 - Roe Skidmore, Frances Heiserman, Clark & Mary Waldmier

10:00 - Bill & Carol Charlton, Carroll & Doris Little

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

10:00 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:00 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Brenda & Don Tankersley, Bill & LeEtta Bass, Jane Latshaw

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Jan Patrick

10:00 service only - Brett Swallow

July 11 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew

Hosts:

July 9 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

July 10 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

July 11 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

July 12 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

July 13 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
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

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