



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, July 11, 2007

No. 28

One Service July 22

The congregation is invited to gather in a single service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 22, to welcome home the Chancel Choir, which recently completed its two thousand mile tour of the Midwest and western states. Much of the service will be devoted to music that the choir has sung in congregations from Missouri to Colorado and Kansas and Iowa. Following the service, you can honor the choir in a reception in the Friendship Center and express your appreciation for their ministry throughout the year.

It's Here!

Central's new bus has arrived! The bus carries a driver and up to fourteen passengers in belted coach seats. It has a powered lift for wheelchairs, and lower steps to accommodate walkers. It departed Sunday with youth and adults for a summer outing in the Wisconsin Dells with condominium accommodations provided by a generous donor in appreciation for Central's youth ministry. This new vehicle for ministry is provided through your generous support of the 2006-2009 Building Fund.



Church Council Meeting Canceled

The July meeting of the Church Council scheduled for July 19 has been canceled.

Family Fun Day at Nelson Park – August 12th

The Fellowship Department is hosting an afternoon of family fun, food and activities at Nelson Park on Sunday, August 12th. More details will be announced soon but we promise games, picnic fare, fellowship and fun for everyone in the family. Save the date – August 12th!

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Prayer for You
Text: Colossians 1:1-14
Charles Watkins

Miracle Mums for Sale This Sunday!

The World Outreach Department is taking orders this Sunday and throughout July for "Miracle Mums", a fundraiser for this year's Miracle Day project at Camp Walter Scott. Each locally-grown plant comes in a 6 1/2" pot and sells for \$5 each. The mums can be ordered in yellow, red, bronze, white and lavender and will be delivered the first week of September. You may order in the Friendship Center or contact the church office. Payment must be made with your order.

Miracle Day is Saturday, September 29, at Camp Walter Scott. Each year, your regional camp hosts more than 2,500 young Disciples for a week of fun, worship, and learning more about God in a natural setting. Some of the projects planned for Miracle Day include roofing hogans, the caretakers house and shower house; building additions to cabins; lots of painting in the shower house, new additions and dining hall; installing additional pews in the chapel; building a rock base for the path to the chapel and general cleaning. All profits from the sale of Miracle Mums will go toward the camp. Soon you will also be able to sign up as a volunteer for this special day. And, of course, we ask that you keep Miracle Day and Camp Walter Scott in your prayers. Help make a miracle by ordering your Miracle Mums this Sunday!



Central Youth

Wednesday Night Special

Central Youth (grades entering 6th - finishing 12th) are invited to Pastor Robert's home, July 19th from 1-4 p.m. for swimming. 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.

Fall Planning!

Mark your calendars for the following Fall events for Middle School and High School Youth!

CCIW Miracle Day 2007
Saturday, September 29th
Camp Walter Scott
Summit 2007 - November
16th-18th

UR Connected to God.com
Right Here in Decatur

Charles's Column

Each week as I stand in the chancel of the sanctuary and look at you, I am awed. I scan across the congregation, face by face, and I realize that we are gathered together with huge differences in what we are facing before God. I see the young couple that is struggling to discover who they are in marriage, now that they know they are not just individuals any more. I see the middle-aged couple that wonders whether they can keep their marriage going. I see the elderly couple that is struggling with decisions about whether they can continue living in the home where they have lived for forty years. I see the widow who is dealing with issues and problems that she never imagined just a short time ago when she thought her partner would take care of such things. I see the young person who is trying to figure out what shape his life should take. I see the elderly person who is sorting through precious mementoes and throwing away box after box of accumulated treasures that he knows his kids don't care about and will not want. I see the person who is torn between responsibilities for her parents and responsibilities for her own household and responsibilities for her children and grandchildren. I see people who are working hard every day to make ends meet, and people who are comfortably well off and wondering what is the purpose for their lives now. And I see people who are just glad to be in God's house again.

As I look at you, I have in my hands a prepared manuscript which I have crafted over long hours of study and contemplation, my very best attempt to bring to you a word from God. I have a text (usually assigned by the New Common Lectionary for this particular Sunday) that I have wrestled with for many hours to wring from it the Good News that God wants you to hear this Sunday. And as I look at you and think about what I have prepared for you, I pray really hard.

Through the grace of a loving God, someone in the congregation will hear that word that God has addressed to her. She may send me a thoughtful note or an e-mail in appreciation. But then there are hundreds of others who won't hear anything that touches their lives. Perhaps next week will be a message that speaks to them, if only they will persevere and return to worship once more. The one thing that I know as I step up to the pulpit is that the words I speak will help some, offend some, and invite others to doze in the loving arms of God. And sometimes my only consolation is that I have carefully prepared for a limited time so that no one will have to endure the sermon too long.

The only way I can do this week after week is by trusting that God will care for you even when I cannot. After all, there is not just my seventeen minute sermon. There is the reading of scripture, great hymns for singing, a powerful anthem from the choir, a pastoral prayer on behalf of us all, a mighty witness from the organ, the light of the sun through dazzling windows, and your own moments with God in a crowded and busy and difficult week.

I am amazed when I look at you on Sunday morning. And I am so grateful that God loves you even more than I do and that whatever offering I have prepared may be blessed by the Holy Spirit to strengthen the Body of Christ in our amazing church.

Charles Watkins

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Ed & Joy Adams** following the death of Ed's mother, *Vivian F. Adams* on July 3rd and the July 8th death of Joy's sister, *Evelyn Sidwell* of Granite City.....and to **Bill & Alice Rule** following the July 4th death of his sister, *Opal Warren* of Jackson, Mississippi.

Faces of Hope from Slidell Mission Trip

The most rewarding parts of our recent mission trip to Slidell, LA were the friendships that we quickly made with our hosts from First Christian Church



and with our fellow missionaries from First Christian Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Because our group was small, the Disciples Disaster Response team based at Grace Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Covington, LA partnered us with another small team from Nebraska. Three men, two women and

one youth joined our crew to tackle the tasks we were assigned. We worked side by side the whole week. And, we worked well together, often placing our trust in each other as we held sheets of drywall over our heads on high ceilings for installation. The Nebraska Team (*pictured above*) joined our group for a tour of the devastation in New Orleans, especially the lower ninth ward. We also enjoyed a visit to the historic French Quarter and a meal of Creole and Cajun cooking at a restaurant on Decatur Street.

We were blessed to have the most gracious hosts back at our mission station in Slidell (*pictured to the right*). Avis & Marvin Burnette and Pastor Susan LaSalle were incredibly supportive and kind to our group. From conversations



about who we are as Disciples of Christ to a tour of the areas of Slidell that were hardest hit, we learned much from one another. About twenty members of First Christian Church gathered with us on Tuesday night to share a potluck style dinner complete with red beans and rice. Many of those who came to feed us had suffered much loss in the fierce winds and floods of Hurricane Katrina, and yet they came with smiling faces of gratitude for the simple progress we were making in the ongoing recovery efforts. What a joy it was to be surrounded by such wonderful faces of hope!

Robert



Sunday, July 15, 2007

8:00 and 10:00- Worship Services
 Music: Offertory-Bill Moutray, Baritone;
 Marilyn Ward, Accompanist
 10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
 8:45-Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall
 9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Lucy Acheson
 9:00-Sunday School
 9:15-Joyful Noise Club, Stage
 9:15-Young Adults, Great Hall
 4:30-Youth Return from Wisconsin Dells

Monday (16)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall
 4:00-Aerobics, 290
 6:30-Christian Education Steering Committee, 290

Tuesday (17)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
 Senior Pastor's Study
 4:00-Aerobics, 290
 6:30-Peace & Justice, Disciple Room

Wednesday (18)

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

Thursday (19)

10:00-Alanon, 212
 1:00-5:00-Banner Team, 210
 4:00-Aerobics, 290
 7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (20)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

Saturday (21)

General Assembly, July 21-25,
 Fort Worth, Texas

Counting On You

July 8

Worship Attendance292
 Sunday School Attendance 67

Serving Schedule—July 15, 2007

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Mike Holbrook, Larry Chapman

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 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 - Morris & Wilma Birkhead, Dennis & Debbie Downey

10:00 - Brett, Kelly, Ashley, and Collin Swallow

Parish Nurse:

 Lucy Acheson

Acolytes:

8:00 - Jarrett Bednar

10:00 - Daniel Hinze

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:00 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Doug Soebbing

10:00 service only - Ron Oliver

July 18 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

Hosts:

July 16 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray

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

July 17 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

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

July 18 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

July 19 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

July 20 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance

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

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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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