



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, July 18, 2007

No. 29

Single Service this Sunday

The congregation is invited to gather in a single worship service this Sunday at 10 a.m. to worship God and to celebrate the return of our beloved Chancel Choir from its summer tour out west. Music will be the primary focus of the service, which will include many of the selections sung by the choir on its recent tour.

Following the worship service there will be a reception honoring the music ministries of our congregation in the Friendship Center.

Miracle Mums for Sale This Sunday!

The World Outreach Department will be taking orders this Sunday and throughout the remainder of July for "Miracle Mums", a fund raiser 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 by contacting the church office. Payment must be made with your order.

Miracle Day is Saturday, September 29th 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 the roofing of 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. So, help make a miracle by ordering your Miracle Mums this Sunday!



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, JULY 22, 2007
WORSHIP AT 10:00
Choir Tour Program
Choir Appreciation Sunday
Don Martin

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!

Lonelier Than the Maytag Repairman!

There's someone in our church who has been very lonely lately. It's our Parish Nurse! Each Sunday morning, from 9:00-9:45 a.m., our Parish Nurse Clinic is open (near the west entrance) for blood pressure and blood glucose checks and for health and wellness and medication consultations. We feel these are valuable services and we want to keep offering them but there have been some days when no one has stopped by. So, do yourself a favor and get your blood pressure checked on Sunday mornings! It will be good for you and for the dedicated nurses that staff our Sunday morning clinic. They don't want to be lonelier than the Maytag repairman!



Central Youth

Youth 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. Registration forms available this Sunday.

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

Gretchen's Gleanings

WOW - what an adventure we had last month! And what a honor it was to travel across six states with members and friends of the Chancel Choir on an eight-day tour! During our time together we met some of the clients and toured the headquarters of Woodhaven, a National Benevolent Association facility in Columbia, Missouri which provides services for adults living with developmental disabilities. We sang beautiful music (and ate delicious food) at seven different churches in four different states. We witnessed some of the most breathtakingly beautiful scenery God has ever created. We experienced centuries old cliff dwellings and rock formations. We ascended to the summit of Pike's Peak (on the cog railway, of course). We were able to help one church in Evergreen, Colorado "spruce" up their facility. We were privileged to reacquaint with family members and old friends and meet lots of new friends along the way. During more than 2700 miles and nearly 50 hours spent on the bus, we learned a lot about each other and grew closer together as a community. We found out which of us were morning people and which were night people. We talked about our families; we shared stories and jokes; we teased each other and challenged each other. We experienced what it was like to struggle for breaths at high altitudes.

We prayed together, supported each other, laughed a lot and even cried a little. And through it all, we shared our love for singing and our gratitude to God for the blessings of life through our music. I wish that each of you could have experienced the week that we did. It was wonderful! This coming Sunday you will be able to experience a little of what we experienced as the choir shares much of their concert music with you in a special, single service at 10 a.m. We can't recreate the beautiful scenery, delicious food and bus-like ambience, but we can share the music that we enjoyed with hundreds on our journey to Colorado and back. We hope that you will be able to attend and to share in this little slice of the adventure we had. And we hope that you will tarry awhile after the service and enjoy some goodies at the reception in the Friendship Center as we show our appreciation to the choir for the inspiring music they bring us throughout the year. If you would like to see some of the photographs and read some of the stories from choir members, visit our website at www.cccdisciples.org. Come enjoy the adventure this Sunday!

— *Gretchen*

Central Youth Wisconsin Dells Trip



Several youth and adults from Central traveled to Wisconsin Dells for a week-long stay at the Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wilderness Resort. Those who began the trip are pictured above with five more joining them later in the week. The trip was a gift from a generous donor and was enjoyed by youth and adults alike!

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Scott & Melinda Hawbaker** and family following the recent death of Scott's grandmother, *Iona Pearl Judd* of Durand, IL.

In Memoriam

During the first half of 2007 Central received special gifts honoring the memories of *Paul E. Anderson, D. Jane Bissey, Warren Brooks, Robert Cargill, Edith Fuqua, James Gentry, W. Dale Gustin, Kathleen Harrington, Joseph Hostetler, Fern Hudson, Harold Irwin, Nathalie Irwin, Virginia Isom, Doris E. Israel, Clarence & Dorothy Keck, Lillian Leslie Lewis, Blanche & Ray March, Donald March, Ernestine J. Mrozinski, Jo Parker, Dorothy Price, Helen Rotz, Arthur Rueff, William David Smith, Janice E. Sperry* and *Robert E. Ward*.

We are grateful for the lives of these whose memories are honored here at Central and for those who have given memorial funds honoring them. Memorial gifts to Central in the first six months of 2007 total \$20,370.

Gifts to the church honoring the memories of friends and family members are always welcome and appropriate. Each gift is recorded at the church and acknowledged to the family. Memorial gifts are used for special needs approved by the Church Council and in consultation with family members.

Counting On You

July 15

Worship Attendance 311
Sunday School Attendance 63

During the first half of 2007, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$311,797 which is \$5,797 above the giving goal for the first six months of this year and \$37,426 more than was given in the first six months last year.

Expenses to operate the church the first half of 2007 were \$373,636 which is \$20,436 below the budgeted amount. In five of the last seven months, the church has ended the month with a small cash surplus. At the end of June the accumulated deficit in the General Operating Fund for the year to date is -\$ 6,955 which is \$36,463 less than the deficit at this time last year.

All outreach commitments through June both locally and globally were paid in full.

Gifts to the *Preserving Our Past...Securing Our Future* capital campaign during the first half of 2007 were \$72,446. The church's building fund debt now stands at \$181,151 including the debt on the new church bus.

Your regular and generous giving keeps Central going! We're counting on you! Be sure to do your best for your church, so that your church can do its best for God.

Detailed monthly financial reports for the congregation and for the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter by the church office in the Friendship Center along with minutes of the last Church Council meeting. You can always pick up copies and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



Sunday, July 22, 2007

10:00-Worship Service

Music: Choir Tour Program

8:45-Sunday Breakfast Club, Great Hall

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Mary Jane Linton

9:00-Sunday School

9:15-Joyful Noise Club, Stage

Monday (23)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

Tuesday (24)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

12:00-Public Relations, Disciple Room

5:00-C.A.D.V. Meeting, Disciple Room

Wednesday (25)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290

12:00-Central Singers

5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290

Thursday (26)

10:00-Alanon, 212

1:00-5:00-Banner Team, 210

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (27)

8:00-Wellness Walk, Great Hall

10:00-Trustees, Disciple Room

Saturday (28)

10:00-2:00-CCIW Meeting, Disciple Rm

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 God loves us extravagantly. 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, or fill." From Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese

Serving Schedule—July 22, 2007

Elders:

10:00 - Mary Jane Linton, Jan Dobbs

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Claudia Quigg

Decatur Memorial: Mary Jane Oliver

Deacons:

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:

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

Greeters:

10:00 - Barbara Tyler, Nedra Brintlinger, David & Katie Miller

Parish Nurse: Mary Jane Linton

Acolytes:

10:00 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

10:00 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Bruce Williams

10:00 service only - Karen Baird

July 25 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

Hosts:

July 23 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis
July 24 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Flanders
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
July 25 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew
July 26 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry
12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon
July 27 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
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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