



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, August 1, 2007

No. 31

A Taste of General Assembly

All are invited to join in the Disciples Classroom at 9 a.m. Sunday, August 12th to view portions of the State-of-the-Church presentation given by General Minister and President, Sharon E. Watkins, at the recent General Assembly. Come, hear and see the ways that Disciples are choosing life as we link arms and work toward wholeness in a fragmented world. Refreshments will be provided.

Decatur Celebration Parking

Central youth will operate the parking lot at National City Bank at the corner of Eldorado Street and Main Street just two blocks from the Show Stage. Parking will be available for \$5 per car on Friday evening, Saturday all day and Sunday during the event. Reserved parking will be available on a limited basis for \$10. If you would like to reserve a space, you may do so by signing up in the Friendship Center or by calling the church office. Funds received will be used to help send youth to CCIW Miracle Day, to Summit 2007 and to benefit local Youth Ministry activities.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, August 8th!

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, August 8th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu includes ham salad stuffed tomato, fresh fruit and dessert! The food is lovingly prepared by volunteers in our own kitchen. Following the meal, our own **Lucien Smith** will present a medley of songs, accompanied by **John Baird**. To sign up, you will need to 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, August 6th, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

Play Day in the Park – August 12th

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend Central's "Play Day in the Park" at Nelson Park on Sunday, August 12, hosted by the Fellowship Department. This all-church event promises fun for all ages: boat rides, children's play area, yard games, table games in the large pavilion, or a stroll through the adjacent rock garden. Enjoy games and boat rides beginning at 2 p.m. A fried chicken picnic supper will be served at 4 p.m., followed by passes for mini golf and batting cages. Tickets are \$5 per person; \$15 maximum for a family. Tickets will be available in the Friendship Center this Sunday.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2007
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

The G Word

Text: Luke 12:13-21

Robert Bushey

Welcome New Members



Welcome **Jim & Emmy Williams**, who became members of Central by transfer of membership on July 29.

Regional Women's Retreat – September 22-23

All women are invited to attend the annual Southern Illinois Women's Retreat at Camp Walter Scott September 22-23, 2007. This year's retreat, Waves of Love and Mercy, is key-noted by Amanda Jassman. Join together for great study and inspiration, wonderful food and fellowship and maybe even a little rest! You can choose options for one or two nights or just Saturday and for accommodations at the camp or a local hotel. The registration fee will vary depending on the options you choose. Deadline for reservations is September 12. Registration forms are available in the Friendship Center!



Central Youth

Decatur Celebration Parking

Central youth will park cars at National City Bank at the corner of Eldorado Street and Main Street during the Decatur Celebration. Contact Pastor Robert to sign up for the hours you are available to work. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and will provide scholarships for summit and other activities.

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. We will leave at 1pm on Thursday and return by 2 p.m. on Sunday. Registration deadline is 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

Robert's Reflections

Have you read the July/August issue of *Disciples World*? If you have, then you know that the focus for our church's magazine this month is *Poverty in a Land of Plenty*. Several well written articles address the problems of poverty in our nation and our world. From the efforts of local Disciples congregations to national and even global programming the publishers give us a glimpse into the hope that is found even in the midst of dismal circumstances, hope that is a gift from the hands of Christ's followers and the heart of God. While the statistics are gleeful when compared to those of most other nations, the magazine reports that twenty percent of U.S. children are living in poverty. Right here in this beautiful land of opportunity and plenty, 2 out of every 10 children are living in poverty. We used to say "they are the poor kids." Sociologists have figured out that labeling a child as poor may affect their self-esteem, their understanding of their worth as a person, which may lead to perpetuation of the poverty cycle. Today we use a different descriptive phrase when we speak of those persons in our midst who have less than enough resources to allow them to live at a set of standards that we, as a nation, have collectively acknowledged are the least necessary for living. Because we have begun to learn that just because a person is poor in terms of money, they are not automatically a bad, ignorant, or otherwise incapable human being, we now use the phrase "under-resourced" when we address persons living in poverty.

Now, you may be saying enough with the PC language (politically correct)! Call it what it is preacher! Poor is poor. And, if I was trying to be PC, I may agree with you. What I am trying to do is to make sense of an issue that makes absolutely no sense when I consider the massive wealth of our land. How can it be that in such a place as this, a child can be so under-resourced that she may know what it feels like to go to sleep at night with hunger? How is it so that in a land with such abundance, children are without safe shelter and clothing? I know the explanations about those lousy, no-good parents who squander every nickel at the expense of their children's needs, I've heard that before. I know the rationality that says that every person has a chance to "make it" if they are willing to work hard and apply themselves 110%, I've heard that, too. I know the quote from scripture, "for you always have the poor with you," I've read Matthew, Mark and John a few times, too. And it still doesn't make sense to me.

I also know what it feels like to stand in line at the grocery store and pay with your food with food stamps when the person with the checkbook behind you looks you over from head to toe as if they are trying to figure out what mistake you made, or checking to see if the brand of your shoes matches the lack of money in your pocket. I know what government commodities taste like, and I know what it is like to go to the school office to get the "reduced-fare" meal ticket for lunch when most of your class bought theirs from the teacher. And, I was never poor. I was the child of corporate take over, company relocation for cheaper wages, investor profit taking and amazing parents who suddenly found themselves, under-resourced. I was lucky. I had a stable, supportive and open home environment that was able to meet the tide and ride it out. I was never under-resourced. Jesus said, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions (Luke 12:15)." My friends take care and be on your guard. Greed may be the answer I've been looking for.

Peace & Joy, *Robert*

News From the Pews.....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Chris & Al Fagin** and family following the July 23rd death of her father, *Keith W. Gorden* of Blue Mound.....and to **Tina & Rick King** and family following the death of her mother, *Margaret Fundy* on July 29.

General Assembly Report

Pastor **Gretchen Barron** and **Jane** and **Charles Watkins** attended the 2007 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ft. Worth, Texas last week. Soon the church will receive a DVD summary as well as printed reports on Assembly business. In the meantime, though, you can direct your web browser to www.disciples.org and find video clips of speakers and activities as well as the complete text of every business item (as revised) and a report on the action taken by the Assembly on each item. If you want to know more about the General Assembly of our church, those who attended will be glad to fill you in.

Have You Heard the Exciting News? Miracles Will Happen!

Miracle Day at Camp Walter Scott is coming quickly! Saturday, September 29th, the camp will be bustling with volunteer workers from around the region. Volunteers will be painting, doing landscaping, building and helping with other minor repairs. All skill levels are needed – everyone who chooses to be a part can serve, everyone can help! Get the date on your calendar now. Volunteer sign ups will begin soon. You know the importance of church camp in the lives of our young people. Plan now to be part of the miracle on Saturday, September 29th!

Subscribe Today to DisciplesWorld!

DisciplesWorld is OUR magazine to keep us up-to-date on issues and news of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the wider global church. Each monthly issue is packed with informative and inspirational articles, relevant stories, Bible Studies, news and more. It is a quality publication which needs our support. A single, one-year (10 month) subscription costs just \$31, a mere 59 cents each week to keep you connected with Global issues and Disciples around the world and right here at home. In addition, when you subscribe to DisciplesWorld in print, you also receive access to magazine content online (information exclusive only to print subscribers). Don't miss another issue! Don't delay – subscribe today! Sample issues and subscription forms are available in the Friendship Center or you can subscribe online by following the link on our webpage at www.cccdisciples.org.

Counting On You

July 29

Worship Attendance 256
Sunday School Attendance 70



Sunday, August 5, 2007

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Rachel West, Piano
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
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

Monday (6)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center
4:00-Aerobics, 290
6:30-C.A.C.S. Dept., Disciple Room

Tuesday (7)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
1:00-5:00-Personnel Listening Day,
Parlor
4:00-Aerobics, 290
4:45-World Outreach, Volunteer Room

Wednesday (8)

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

Thursday (9)

10:00-Alanon, 212
1:00-Youth leave for Pere Marquette
4:00-Aerobics, 290
5:30-Play Day/Picnic Committee,
Volunteer Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (10)

8:00-Wellness Walk/Light Aerobics,
Great Hall/Heritage Center

Saturday (11)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Serving Schedule—August 5, 2007

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Shirley Swarouth & Brett Swallow

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Lois Whitaker & Tom Spry

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 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 - Darla & Norman Lienemann, Dean & Janet Gray

10:00 - Jon & Jane French, Mike & Coleen Myers

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:00 - Sam Funk

10:00 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:00 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Carole Holbrook, Carrie & Steve Funk, Maxine Koenig, Connie Ogden

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Ed Adams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:00 service only - Brett Swallow

August 8 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew

Hosts:

Aug. 6 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Aug. 7 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams
12:30-4:00 - Helen Hufford

Aug. 8 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Aug. 9 9:00-12:30 - Darla Lienemann
12:30-4:00 - Louise Boline

Aug. 10 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
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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