



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, August 8, 2007

No. 32

## A Taste of General Assembly

All are invited to join in the Disciple Room at 9 a.m. this Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Play Day in the Park – August 12<sup>th</sup>

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.

## Sign Up This Sunday to be Part of the MIRACLE!

Miracle Day at Camp Walter Scott is coming quickly! Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 and sign up this Sunday. You know the importance of church camp in the lives of our young people. Be part of the miracle on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Subscribe Today to Disciples World!

*Disciples World* 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 *Disciples World* 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](http://www.cccdisciples.org).

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2007**

**WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00**

**Climb into the  
Wheelbarrow**

Text: Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-19

Charles Watkins

## Collecting School Supplies for Project Success

Each year Project Success of Decatur and Macon County provides basic school supplies for over one thousand students in grades K-6. The program provides supplies at the beginning of the year and throughout the year for under-resourced students. You are invited to bring new school supplies to the church to be placed in the Christian Action and Community Service supplies cart Sundays, August 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Supplies needed include: #2 lead pencils, Crayons (8 large, #24 Crayola or equivalent), colored pencils, blunt tip scissors, glue (8 oz. Glue All), large erasers, rulers with standard and metric units, and facial tissues. Of course, monetary donations are accepted as well, mark your check payable to Central with School in the memo space. Let's fill the cart and help several children get a great start in school this year!





## Central Youth

### Youth Mid-Week Special August 15<sup>th</sup> 5-8:30 p.m.

Last gathering before school begins! Pool will open at 5 p.m. with supper at 6:30 p.m. We will end the evening by 8:30 p.m. Bring chips or a dessert to share.

**Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>  
6-8 p.m.**

**Go-Karting or Mini Golf  
at Pla Mor**

\$5 per person to  
race or play.

Snacks are on your own.

### Fall Planning!

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

**CCIW Miracle Day 2007**

**Saturday, September  
29<sup>th</sup>**

**Camp Walter Scott**

**Summit 2007**

**November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**

**UR Connected to God.com  
Right Here in Decatur**

### Youth Parking Lot Success!

Central youth say "Thank you!" to all who supported our Decatur Celebration Parking Lot this year. The youth raised almost \$1200 during the three day event. Thank you!

## Charles's Column

Let me start with the bottom line and the essence of my message to you today: the next General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be in Indianapolis, July 25-29, 2009. Please mark the dates on your calendar and start planning now to attend. Most international gatherings of denominations are limited to delegates chosen by middle judicatories, but not ours. Every member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is eligible to register and attend and speak from the floor on any business item. Ours is a uniquely American and democratic international gathering of Disciples. Our congregation is eligible to name nine voting representatives to the next General Assembly and as many non-voting representatives as wish to attend, and I would like for you to be one of Central's representatives.

The General Assembly is part family reunion, part business meeting, part spiritual revival, part academy of faith and mission, part festival of hope, part denominational debating society, and part revitalization effort. It is our "big show" of everything we are doing all around the world and everything that we should be doing but aren't really serious about yet.

All the General Units and executive staff who implement the work of our church around the globe are there, speaking to you, listening to you, and accounting to you for what they have accomplished on your behalf. There is a big meal event for each general unit and constituency, and if you are full of vigor, you can begin with breakfast events at 7:00 a.m. and finish your day with after-sessions that begin at 10:30 p.m. and go on and on from there. You can wear yourself out for your church, or you can pick and choose which events, sessions, addresses, workshops and worship events to attend.

I attended the very first General Assembly of our church in 1968 in Kansas City as a seminary student. That was the year that our international convention of Christian Churches became the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and joined the ecumenical church as a communion. I slept on a hard fellowship hall floor in a Kansas City church, I showered through the courtesy of a minister from my home church, and I was awe-struck by the hugeness of the event. Since then, there have been twenty biennial General Assemblies, and I have missed only four of them (Seattle, Anaheim, Denver, and Portland).

I so want to share with you the wonder of the Fort Worth General Assembly last month, and I am prepared to do so up to the limit of your tolerance. There are DVDs and CDs and videotapes of every session, every speech, every worship service, every workshop, and every pre-and-post assembly event. I have some of them, and I can order others for you. I really want you to experience the breadth and depth of our "nifty little church" and its global witness, and the only way I can achieve that goal is to have you with me and eight thousand other Disciples in Indianapolis two years from now. Really! Seriously! Plan to go with me! Be there! It's like no other church experience you have ever had! I will love to share it with you year after next in Indianapolis!

*Charles Watkins*

**The August meeting of the Church Council scheduled for August 16 has been canceled. The next meeting of the Church Council will be on September 20, 2007 at 5:45 p.m.**

## Hope Homework Oasis (H2O)

Our One Church One School partnership with Hope Academy had many successes during the previous school year. Now that Hope Academy is back in session, we are working on a new after-school ministry with children in grades 2-8. One of the needs identified by the school is an after school opportunity for students to get assistance with homework assignments. Hope Homework Oasis (H2O) will serve students with need for academic help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Hope Academy. A brief play time and snack will begin the program. Volunteers from Central Christian, Prairie Avenue Christian and Crestview Christian Churches will serve from 4:10-5 p.m. as homework assistants helping students stay on track and encouraging them to complete their assigned work. The new program will serve students who qualify based on academic need. Volunteers are needed to help with the homework assistance and you may indicate your interest in helping in the Friendship Center beginning this Sunday. Volunteers do not have to be available every Tuesday or Thursday or even every week. We hope to begin the project in September depending on the number of volunteers we have by then.

## Note of Thanks Received

I wish to thank the ministers and all my friends at Central for the calls, cards and prayers following the death of my dear husband, Guy. Your love and concern is truly helping me through this very difficult time.

**Virginia Ferre**

## Prayers and Help Appreciated!

Thank you for the many prayers offered for my father, Robert Bushey, Sr. during his recent surgery and recovery! Dad's recovery continues to progress very well. Thank you, to all who gave of their time here and in Wisconsin so that I could be away from our scheduled youth trip to be with my family during the surgery and afterwards. Our family has been touched by your love and compassion and we are grateful!

**Pastor Robert**

## Evangelism Seeds

“We understand anything better when we try to say it out loud. Could this be one reason Christ asks us to share our faith?”

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



## Sunday, August 12, 2007

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services

Music: 8:00 Offertory-Marilyn Ward,  
Piano

10:00 Offertory-Alex Otis, Soprano

10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir;

Katie Powers, Soprano

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

2:00-Play Day in Nelson Park begins

## Monday (13)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

4:00-Aerobics, 290

## Tuesday (14)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

4:00-Aerobics, 290

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

5:30-Worship Dept., Parlor

## Wednesday (15)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290

12:00-Central Singers

4:00-Aerobics, 290

6:00-8:30-Youth Mid-Week Special at

Robert Bushey's house

## Thursday (16)

10:00-Alanon, 212

4:00-Aerobics, 290

7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (17)

5:00-Wedding Rehearsal, Funk &  
Mahannah

## Saturday (18)

8:00-12:00-Hunger Relief Task Force,  
Great Hall Kitchen

## Counting On You

### August 5

Worship Attendance ..... 267

Sunday School Attendance ..... 57

**Serving Schedule—August 12, 2007**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:00 - Larry Otis, Mary Jane Oliver

**Communion to Shut-Ins:**

**Deacons**

Dave Phillips  
Nita Phillips  
Steve Swarthout  
Janet Thicksten  
Larry Thicksten  
Sally Thicksten  
Daniel Hinze  
Donna Strong  
Bev Chapman  
Debbie Seaberg

**Elders**

Jan Dobbs  
Chris Fagin  
Wayne Honeycutt  
Claudia Quigg  
Larry Pepper  
Larry Chapman  
Lois Whitaker  
Kevin Wilmot  
Rebecca Johnston  
Mark Beal  
Alternate: Tom Spry

**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 Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

**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 - David & Rosalie Poland, Bruce & Liz Campbell  
10:00 - Larry & Betty Chapman, Bob & Mary Jane Linton

**Parish Nurse:** Lucy Acheson

**Acolytes:**

8:00 - Jarrett Bednar  
10:00 - Rachel Ash

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Greg Carter  
10:00 - Jim Hinze

**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 - Jan Patrick  
10:00 service only - Ron Oliver

**August 15 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Marge Karl

**Hosts:**

Aug. 13 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle  
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis  
Aug. 14 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris  
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer  
Aug. 15 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman  
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten  
Aug. 16 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher  
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong  
Aug. 17 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance  
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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POSTAGE  
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