



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, September 5, 2007

No. 36

## **You're Invited to the All Church Picnic**

We hope you've made your reservations and are planning to attend the All Church Picnic this Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> on the west lawn at noon. A new feature of this year's picnic is that the Fellowship Department has teamed up with the Christian Action/Community Service Department and we are inviting our neighbors to join us on the lawn for this special and fun time together. Remember this is a picnic – dress informally. Take advantage of the gathering time before the food is served to introduce yourself to those you don't know and mix and mingle. Try to be aware of our guests and invite them to sit at your table. Share a smile, a greeting, a handshake or a hug! Above all, have fun as we celebrate God's abundant grace in our midst. We've put in our order for beautiful weather and there will be lots of games and activities for the children. We'll see you on Sunday!

## **Disney World comes to Elderberries!**

Who's the leader of the club that's made for you and me? M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E! That's right – Mickey is coming to Elderberries next Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Great Hall! Our own Don Sheffer will present a program entitled, "Disney World for Adults: An Insider's View". Feel free to bring favorite Disney memorabilia and dress in your Mickey shirt! Before we take our virtual trip to Disney World, we will enjoy a delicious meal of Baked Ham, Hashbrown Casserole, Jello Salad and Dessert! The food is lovingly prepared by volunteers in our own kitchen. 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 leftover than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

## **Continuing the Witness: Reconciliation Ministry Offering**

The Reconciliation Ministry Offering provides the primary support of Disciples' efforts to advocate for, educate about and organize to dismantle systemic racism and structural oppression within our ministries and institutions, as well as the communities and cultures that we serve. At least 50 cents of every dollar from this offering remains in the Illinois-Wisconsin Region to fund local initiatives aimed at eradicating racism from its roots, as well as to support the work of our regional team. The remainder supports the ministry of our General Reconciliation Mission across the life of our church primarily through the "Many Members, One Table: Anti-Racism, Pro-Reconciliation Initiative, and the Reconciliation Mission Commission." Reconciliation Ministry receives no allocation from the Disciples Mission Fund and depends on this offering and other generous gifts for support.

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2007 FALL SCHEDULE RESUMES!**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45  
Appeal From the Heart**

Text: Philemon 1-21  
Charles Watkins

## **Congregational Meeting**

The congregation will meet at 11:55 a.m. on Sunday, September 16 in the Great Hall for the purpose of electing trustees, deacons, elders, and honorary permanent officers. All members of the church are invited to attend and vote.

## **Miracle Mums Pick-Up This Weekend!**

If you ordered Miracle Mums last month, now is the time to pick them up. The mums will be available this Sunday for pick up and are ready to bring beautiful color to your fall landscaping. The mums will be available in the last room on your left at the north end of the Preschool Wing (or the first room on your right as you come in the north Education Wing door). You may pick them up at any time on Sunday, including after the church picnic. Volunteers will be available to help you carry them to your car if you park outside the north door. Thank you to everyone who purchased the more than 180 plants. All profits from this fundraiser go directly to help with projects at Camp Walter Scott on Miracle Day!

## Central Youth

**Fall Kick-Off**  
**Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Meet at the Church for Food, Fun and Prayer as we begin our Fall season and make plans for coming events.

### **New Youth Ministry Project**

The Youth of Central will begin a Cardboard Recycling Curb-side Pick Up Project once per month on Sunday Afternoon. The youth will come to your residence, carry out your cardboard (from tissue boxes to heavy corrugated boxes), and the cardboard will be taken to a local recycler during the week. There is no charge for the service. A Schedule of Pick-up Dates and place to sign up will be available in the Friendship Center beginning this Sunday.

**CCIW Miracle Day 2007**  
**Saturday,**  
**September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Camp Walter Scott**

We will leave from the Church at 6:00 a.m. and return by 8:30 p.m. Bring \$5 for a stop for supper in Effingham on the way home.

### **Fall Planning!**

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

**Youth Sunday Worship**  
**October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Summit 2007**  
**November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**  
UR Connected to God.com  
Right Here in Decatur  
Registration information in your mailbox soon!

## **We Are Interested in YOUR Personal Story!**

Central's Evangelism department wants to celebrate the diverse, unique, and extraordinary members of the Central Christian family, so we are embarking on a story-telling project. Part of this project will be a printed and treasured collection of your personal faith stories to share with those within and beyond our congregation. Everyone has a story! There are many reasons for being a part of Central Christian Church, and many ways of getting here: relocation, baptism, marriage, divorce, invitation, inspiration, desperation, are but a few. You can help tell the story of Central Christian Church by telling your own story in your own words. We value the opportunity to hear YOUR story, and eagerly await your submission. The stories will be published in a booklet and made available around the first of November. The deadline for story submission is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Stories should be limited to 250 words (or half a single-spaced typewritten page). Submit your story to the church by e-mail (preferred) at [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org) (please put "Faith Journey" in the subject line) or by dropping it by the church office. More suggestions for what to write are available in the Friendship Center.

***You Are Invited!***

***Open House***

*Saturday, September 8 3:00-5:00 p.m.*

*in honor of the marriage of*

***Rob & Jeanesse Miller***

*9 Oak Ridge Drive, Decatur, IL*

***Katie & David Miller***

## **Equitable Funding for Public Education**

The Peace & Justice Task Force invites you to attend our second panel discussion and forum addressing the current challenges facing public education on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. in the Great Hall. For this forum we will focus on equitable funding for schools. We have invited a panel of persons experienced in the topic area including: David Bottom, former Superintendent of Argenta-Oreana Schools; John Dunn, former State Representative; Alida Graham, President of the Decatur Education Association; and Dan Winters, current member of the Board of Education for Decatur Public Schools. After their brief presentations on the topic we will open the floor for a moderated discussion. Join us as we continue our honest conversation about the challenges facing our education system.

## **CCC Bowling League Sign-ups**

Sign up this week for the Central Christian Church Monday Night Mixed Bowling League. Our non-sanctioned league will play for 16 weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 17 at Pla Mor Lanes. The cost is \$9 per night plus shoes if you need them. Our goal is fun and fellowship. You need not be an exemplary bowler to join us. The league is open to all high school youth and adults. Substitute bowlers are also needed. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up the Friendship Center this Sunday, call 428-4336 or email **Pastor Robert** at [rbushey@cccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org)

There will be a bowling meeting on Monday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Pla Mor. At least one representative from each team needs to be present.

## News From the Pews.....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bob & Chloe Hoaglin** following the August 23<sup>rd</sup> death of Bob's sister, *Dorothy Fleetwood*.

## Exciting New Bible Study Will Take You to the Holy Land!

An exciting new five-week Bible study, "Faith Lessons on the Promised Land" begins Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Each two-hour session, led by **Pastor Gretchen**, includes a meal, elements of prayer, discussion, Bible reading and reflection and a DVD presentation which will take you to archaeological sites in ancient Israel that few people ever see. Experience the Holy Land in stunning visual imagery as you discover geographical and historical contexts of the Bible meant to bring greater meaning and relevance for your faith journey today. In this, the first volume of the study, we will focus our exploration on the Old Testament stories of the ancient Israelites and their journey into the Promised Land. To facilitate various schedules and needs, this study will be offered in both an evening and afternoon format. You may choose either format (we need a minimum of 6 people for each group). The evening study begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays (9-19, 10-3, 10-10, 10-17 and 10-24). A light supper (donations accepted) and childcare will be provided. The afternoon study departs on Thursdays at noon (9-27, 10-4, 10-11, 10-18 and 10-25). You are welcome to bring your own brown bag lunch for the Thursday study. Cost for the study book is \$8. See Pastor Gretchen for more information. Sign-ups begin this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

## Disciples Class Begins New Study!

All are invited to join with the Disciples Class beginning Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, for an exciting new eight-week study of the book, Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism, led by **Pastor Gretchen**. This promises to be an exciting, enjoyable and interactive study as we unpack what it means to be excited about our faith and become intentional in praying for and sharing in the Good News with others in our families, workplaces and neighborhoods. This study is open to *EVERYONE*, not just existing members of the Disciples Class. We will begin promptly at 9:30 and end at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>. Let us know if you are interested and we'll make sure and order you a book. Cost of the study book is \$13 and scholarships are available. Plan now to join us as we Unbind the Gospel!

## Notes of Thanks Received

I want to thank the ministers and the congregation for their prayers and cards during my hospital stay.

Thank You, **Clyde Booher**

Thank you for all the prayers, visits, cards, food and friendship during my recent surgery.

We have experienced the love of our congregation, first hand. You are a true blessing to our lives.

Love to one and all, **Gail & Larry Prince**



## Sunday, September 9, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Don Martin

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:30-Sunday School

11:15-Children's Worship, 250

12:00-All-Church Picnic

## Monday (10)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

4:00-Aerobics, 290

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall

6:30-Bowling Meeting, Pla Mor Lanes

## Tuesday (11)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

11:45-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room

4:00-Aerobics, 290

5:00-CADV meeting, Disciple Room

## Wednesday (12)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290

12:00-Central Singers

12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall

1:30-3:00-Low Vision Support,

Disciple Room

4:00-Aerobics, 290

6:30-Young Adults, Parlor

## Thursday (13)

10:00-Alanon, 212

1:30-ChristCare, 290

4:00-Aerobics, 290

7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (14)

5:00-Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Saturday (15)

4:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Sarah Cholke & Blayne Mathis

## Counting On You

### September 2

Worship Attendance ..... 298

Sunday School Attendance ..... 44

---

---

## Serving Schedule—September 9, 2007

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Larry Pepper, Chris Fagin

### Communion to Shut-Ins:

#### Deacons

Connie Shields  
David Shields  
Max Sperry  
Jarrett Bednar  
Shelby Larrick  
Charlie Ropp  
Jeannie Backes  
Louise Boline  
Mary Boyle  
Merle Chapman

#### Elders

Bruce Campbell  
Larry Otis  
Bob Smith  
Kevin Wilmot  
Barbara Tyler  
Mike Holbrook  
Julie Martin  
Jan Baird  
Barbara Tyler  
Mary Jane Linton  
Alternate: Chris Fagin

### Deacons:

8:15 - 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

10:45 - 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:

8:15 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Carl Morris, Phyllis Morris, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 9 - Bruce, Carol, Allison, Jessica & Maggie Stoddard

### Greeters:

8:15 - Nicole & Charlie Ropp, Betty Cox, Virginia Griffith

10:45 - Marylu Lyman, Randy, Shirley & Jessica Brooks

### Parish Nurse:

#### Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

### Children's Worship: Teri & Robert Bushey

### Preparation of Communion:

Charles & Juanita Reynolds, Connie Schabowski, Nancy Taylor

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

### September 12 Visitor Mailing Crew: Ruby Agnew

#### Hosts:

Sept. 10 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle  
12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Sept. 11 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris  
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

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

Sept. 13 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore  
12:30-4:00 - Chris Fagin

Sept. 14 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
**Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700**  
**HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG**  
**e-mail: *central@cccdisciples.org***

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

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



**Central Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

