



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, September 12, 2007

No. 37

## Election September 16

President of the Congregation **Mike Holbrook** has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, September 16, at 11:55 a.m. in the Great Hall for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, trustees, and honorary permanent officers. All members of the congregation are invited to attend and vote. The recommended slate of officers prepared by the 2007 Nominating Committee was published in the August 29 issue of *The Central Visitor*.

## Children's Worship

Children's Worship has begun for the 2007-2008 school year! We are excited to have the opportunity to serve you and your child. This year CW will be working with the award winning children's books of Rabbi Sandi Eisenberg Sasso. CW will meet after the Offertory Prayer of Dedication during the 10:45 a.m. service. Children will meet in rooms 250-270 on the second level of the Nichols Education Wing. Children should be picked up promptly after the service in the Welcome Center adjacent to the Friendship Center. CW will meet every Sunday from September—May with the exception of Youth Sunday 10/28/2007, Hanging of the Greens 12/2/2007, & Easter Sunday 3/23/2008. Can YOU help? Volunteers to serve as Assistants and Substitutes are needed. Contact CW Coordinator **Teri Bushey** at 429-5823 to volunteer.

## Continuing the Witness: Reconciliation Ministry Offering

The Reconciliation Ministry Offering received this Sunday 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." Traditionally, Reconciliation Ministry receives no allocation from the Disciples Mission Fund and depends on this offering and other generous gifts for its support. Thank you for your support of this offering!

## We are waiting for YOUR Personal Story!

We're still waiting to receive your personal faith story for the collection being published by the Evangelism department. The deadline for submission is September 15<sup>th</sup>. More information is available in the Friendship Center or by speaking with **Pastor Gretchen**.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2007**

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**Lost & Found**

Text: Luke 15:1-10

Robert Bushey

## Flu Shots Offered at Central

Mark your calendars! The Macon County Health Dept. is again offering flu and pneumonia vaccinations at Central on Tuesday, October 9, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Disciple Room. Medicare is accepted.

## Central's Habitat House to be Dedicated!

Finally, the day has arrived when the Central Christian Church Habitat House (number 50 for our Decatur affiliate) will be dedicated. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 p.m. The house is located at 1735 North 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Come and join in the festivities as we ask God's blessing upon the home. Meet homeowner, Unity Henry, and her family and tour the completed home. Refreshments will follow the dedication service. Funding for this home was made entirely by Central Christian Church, made possible by your generous donations to our 2003-2006 Capital Campaign, Proud of our Past ... Focused on Our Future. The \$40,000 gift was presented to Habitat for Humanity in March 2006 and we broke ground in May 2006. To view a pictorial progress report on the home from ground breaking to completion, visit our website at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org).

## 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 this Sunday.

**CCIW Miracle Day 2007**  
**Saturday, Sept. 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!

## Robert's Reflections

The rumble of yellow school buses has once again busied our streets every morning and afternoon. I am often amazed at the number of buses moving in every direction across the city. As I learn about public education, I am grateful for the choices within our school district that families in our community have when pursuing an education for their children. Pre-kindergarten programs, neighborhood elementary schools, K-8 magnet schools, a balanced calendar school, two middle schools and two high schools all provide our families with options for their child's education. We are fortunate to have so many opportunities available to families in a community our size.

Public education is the focus of an open forum, sponsored by Central's Peace & Justice Task Force, scheduled for this **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** from **4-6 p.m.** in the Great Hall. The focus for this forum is equitable funding for schools. Illinois, while ranking as the 5<sup>th</sup> wealthiest state, ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in state funding for public education with funding disparities as high as \$24,000 per student when comparing school districts. The task force has 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. I hope you will attend and ask how you can be a part of the solution to a problem that impacts our community in many ways.

Peace & Joy,  
*Robert*

## Thank you for All Church Picnic

A HUGE thank you to all the members of the Fellowship and Christian Action/Community Service Departments and all who helped make Sunday's all-church picnic and Neighborhood festival such a great event. The weather was beautiful, the food was fabulous and the fellowship sublime. It took a great deal of work on the part of many, many people and so, to each and everyone who helped, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

## Disciples Class Begins New Study!

All are invited to join with the Disciples Class this 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 will be an 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 *EVERY-ONE*, not just existing members of the Disciples class. We will begin promptly at 9:30 and end at 10:30 a.m.

**Just Flicks Now Showing**  
*Boys of Baraka*  
**Sunday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church**

## Last Week to Sign up for Bible Study!

Pack your bags. We're going on a journey! 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 give greater meaning and relevance for your faith journey today. To facilitate various schedules and needs, this study will be offered on both Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. 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 (or other) lunch for the Thursday study. Cost for the study book is \$8. See Pastor Gretchen for more information.

## Miracle Day – September 29th

Registration has closed for Miracle Day at Camp Walter Scott on September 29<sup>th</sup> and Central has more than 30 individuals that will be participating. All Miracle Day volunteers will be commissioned during the worship services on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you are not able to volunteer, please remember this important day and all the volunteers from the across the region in your prayers! It may be too late to register but it's not too late to show your support as well by ordering a T-shirt (\$10) or making a donation. Forms are available in the Friendship Center.

## Miracle Mums – please pick them up this Sunday!

If you were not able to pick up your Miracle Mums this past Sunday, please remember to do so this week. They need to be taken home and given the TLC that only you can give. And, they will look much better on your doorstep or in your garden than they do in the Heritage Center which is where they are currently located. Please check off your name on the list when you receive your mums and thank you for supporting this fundraiser for Miracle Days!

## Aprons Gone AWOL

A large number of kitchen towels and chef aprons are missing from the church kitchen storage area.

If you have taken them home or used them elsewhere in the building, please, please return them to the kitchen. Many thanks.

## Counting On You

### September 9

Worship Attendance ..... 306  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 68



## Sunday, September 16, 2007

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: 8:15 Offertory-Central Singers  
10:45 Offertory-Rachel West, Piano  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jeannie Backes  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
11:15-Children's Worship, 250  
12:00-Congregational Meeting,  
Great Hall  
4:00-6:00-Education Forum, Great Hall  
6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian  
6:30-8:00-Youth Group

## Monday (17)

4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:30-Boy Scouts, Great Hall  
6:30-MCCOCP, Disciple Room  
6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

## Tuesday (18)

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 (19)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
12:00-Central Singers  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
6:00-Faith Lessons, Disciple Room

## Thursday (20)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
1:30-ChristCare, 290  
4:00-Aerobics, 290  
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Friday (21)

1:00-4:00-Banner Team, 210  
5:30-Wedding Rehearsal

## Saturday (22)

4:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Sara Linton &  
Jon Beyer

---

---

## Serving Schedule—September 16, 2007

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Janet Lyman, Wayne Honeycutt

### Deacons:

8:15 - 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

10:45 - 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:

8:15 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Ruby Agnew, Willie Birkhead, Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos

10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Marilyn Blank, Bob Harmon, Billie Harmon

### Greeters:

8:15 - Steve & Juanita Ballance, Bob & Chloe Hoaglin

10:45 - Sid Rotz, Roy Schilling, Ed & Lucy Acheson

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Mike & Gerri Munos Family

### Parish Nurse:

Jeannie Backes

### Children's Worship:

Teri Bushey & Christine Lyman-Harm

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

### Preparation of Communion:

Charles & Juanita Reynolds, Connie Schabowski, Nancy Taylor

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

## September 19 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

### Hosts:

Sept. 17 9:00-12:30 - Pat Ash

12:30-4:00 - Joy Adams

Sept. 18 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

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

Sept. 19 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Sept. 20 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Sept. 21 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance

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

