



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXX

Decatur, Illinois, September 19, 2007

No. 38

## Election Results

Each candidate nominated for the offices of Trustee, Deacon, Elder, and Honorary Permanent Officer was elected at the congregational meeting last Sunday. Many thanks again to the 2007 Nominating Committee: **Bruce Campbell**, Chair; **Jane Davis**, **Al Fagin**, **Chloe Hoaglin**, **Richard Ward**, and **Mike Holbrook**, ex-officio. A complete list of those nominated and elected was published in *The Central Visitor* three weeks ago. Many thanks also to each one who has agreed to serve our church in the various offices.

## Central's Habitat House to be Dedicated!

The day has arrived when the Central Christian Church Habitat House (# 50 for our Decatur affiliate) will be dedicated. Everyone is invited to join the celebration Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 p.m. The house is located at 1735 North 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Come 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. View a pictorial progress report on the home from ground breaking to completion on our website [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org).

## Chancel Bells to begin rehearsals, Thursday October 4 at 6:00 p.m.

We will prepare for involvement in the Hanging of the Greens service to be held on December 2. Please contact **Don Martin** if you are interested in joining this ministry.

## Last Week to Sign up for Bible Study!

We still need more people to sign up for the Bible study beginning Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at noon. You won't regret going on this journey with us. During each of the five sessions of "Faith Lessons on the Promised Land" you will travel to archaeological sites in ancient Israel that few people ever see. Each two-hour session, led by Pastor Gretchen, includes sharing a sack lunch together, elements of prayer, discussion, Bible reading and reflection and a DVD presentation which will take you to 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. Cost for the study book is \$8. See **Pastor Gretchen** for more information.

## CROP Walk – Sunday, October 7, 2007

You are invited to join the 2007 CROP Walk at Fairview Park on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. The walk supports efforts to fight hunger locally and globally. Walkers raise pledges of which half remains in the Decatur Area. For more information, call Rev. Sara Isbell at Grace United Methodist at 429-5374.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2007

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

### Faithful in Little

Text: Luke 16:1-9

Charles Watkins

## Dorcas Meeting September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dorcas women meet Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Central's Disciple classroom. Our theme for the evening is *Preparing the Table: Opening Ourselves to a New Understanding*. Our guest will be a woman from the Baha'i Faith Community. All interested women are invited to share in dialogue, laughter and table fellowship. In weaving together the witness of scripture, the stories we share and the life of Central, Dorcas women glimpse God's table transforming our lives. Come be a part!

## H<sub>2</sub>O Update

Our One Church One School ministry with Hope Academy has begun the Hope Homework Oasis. We are currently serving students from 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, offering help with homework, study skills and some tutoring. We are excited that several of our youth have volunteered for this ministry and that one of the GED students whose class meets at Central is also volunteering. We can still use additional volunteers for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m.–5 p.m. at the school. We also have students in the primary grades who are best served during the school day. If you are interested in helping with students at Hope Academy, contact **Pastor Robert**.



## Central Youth

**Habitat House Blessing  
Cardboard Pick Up  
Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2:30-5:30 p.m.**

Meet at the Church to ride the bus to attend the CCC Habitat House Blessing. After the service and tour we will begin our Cardboard Recycling Pick-up and return to the church by 5:30 p.m.

**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 forms are due  
now!**

## Charles's Column

Last Friday I spoke with organist **Leslie Peart** about the concert next month at Central by yet another royal organist from Great Britain. In the process of our conversation, I congratulated him on his tenth anniversary at the console of the Diller Memorial Organ in our sanctuary, and extended him my best wishes for his eleventh and all future years with us.

I realize that the average person in the pew doesn't imagine the vital importance of the organist in our worship service. In a service that lasts sixty minutes, the organist is playing at least half that time—prelude, hymns, responses, offertory, anthem accompaniment, communion mediations, interludes, improvisations that weave one part of the service into the next, and triumphant postlude. The organist plays more minutes than I preach and spends many more hours in practice than I do! It is part of the organist's artistry that he is essential but not intrusive. He's so good that you may not notice him. But even more important than the time played is the timing of the playing.

The organist is actually in charge of the service. It is the organist who determines whether we start on time, who sets the pace and tempo of the service, and also determines whether the hymns are played up to tempo or dragged majestically so that the casual hymn singer has to take a couple of breaths just to get through a four measure phrase. I greatly admire and appreciate our organist who can keep the hymns moving with high spirit and enthusiasm, because I have sat through services where even *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* sounded like a funeral dirge. Leslie Peart provides wonderful leadership for our worship at the organ, and he even gives us a free measure at the end of each stanza of every hymn to catch our breath to sing the next!

I have known organists who play only the notes on the page, but Les enlivens the service with musical bridges that make a beautiful transition between one section of the service and another. Some organists disdain and refuse to play "traveling music" between different sections, but Les cleverly improvises and even transposes from one movement in our worship to another.

Frequently the hymns Les chooses to play during communion are excellently suited to the theme of the service. A couple of weeks ago, as the communion service began I noticed that Les was playing *Make Me a Blessing* which was the essential message of my sermon, and I thought, "Why didn't I pick that for the congregation to sing?" I grabbed up my hymnal and realized that this hymn does not appear in our hymnbook. This deficiency in our service was remedied by Les at the organ as many of us sang along in our hearts. Les faithfully remedies many deficiencies, and most often God speaks to me in the voice of the organ.

During Leslie Peart's ten year tenure at Central, the Diller Memorial organ has been increased in size and versatility. He in cooperation with organ-builder **Robert Dial** designed the expansion of the pipe organ and its modifications for the twenty-first century. The organ console can now be placed anywhere in the chancel and fairly often has been. Yes, there are the original thousands of pipes, but there is also a computer blinking deep inside the console and digital enhancements that were never even imagined when our organ was built in Canada in 1954. Each week we are lifted in praise by a medieval instrument remarkably adapted to our age, thanks to the artistry of Leslie Peart. Happy Tenth Anniversary, Les!

*Charles Watkins*

**News From the Pews.....**

**Alice Brooks'** family is surprising her with a card shower for her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday, which is October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Send cards to Alice at 303 W. South Street, Oreana, IL 62554. And remember, this is a SURPRISE!

**Miracle Day – September 29<sup>th</sup>**

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're not able to volunteer, 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 by ordering a T-shirt (\$10) or making a donation. Forms are available in the Friendship Center.

**Just Flicks Now Showing: *Boys of Baraka***

September 12, 2002 twenty "at risk" 12-year-old boys from the tough streets of inner-city Baltimore left home to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Baraka, an experimental boarding school located in Kenya, East Africa. Here, faced with a strict academic and disciplinary program as well as the freedom to be normal teenage boys, these brave kids began the daunting journey towards putting their lives on a fresh path. "The Boys of Baraka" zeros in on kids that society has given up on, boys with every disadvantage, but who refuse to be cast off as "throw-aways." The film will show at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m.

*Around the World in 80 Years*  
 You are Invited  
 to an 80th Birthday Celebration  
 for **C. William Nichols**  
 Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m.  
 in the Friendship Center

**Join us for Lunch Bunch!**

Lunch Bunch will enjoy fellowship at Bennigan's, 2350 S. Mt. Zion Road, at noon on Sunday, October 7. See **Pastor Gretchen** for more information.



**Sunday, September 23, 2007**

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
 Music: Offertory-Gretchen Barron,  
 Soprano  
 10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
 9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw  
 9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
 9:30-Sunday School  
 11:15-Children's Worship, 250-270  
 2:30-Youth meet at church for  
 Cardboard Pick Up  
 3:00-Habitat House Dedication,  
 1735 North 28th Street  
 6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian

**Monday (24)**

6:30-Boy Scouts, Great Hall & Disciple Room  
 6:30-CCC Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

**Tuesday (25)**

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
 Senior Pastor's Study  
 4:00-H<sub>2</sub>O Volunteers, Hope Academy  
 7:00-Dorcas Group, Disciple Room

**Wednesday (26)**

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
 5:30-Taste of Stephen Ministers, Parlor

**Thursday (27)**

10:00-Alanon, 212  
 11:00-1:00-Baby Talk Family Literacy,  
 Great Hall  
 12:00-Faith Lessons, Disciple Room  
 1:30-ChristCare, 290  
 5:30-World Outreach, Volunteer Room  
 7:00-Chancel Choir

**Friday (28)**

5:00-Wedding Rehearsal

**Saturday (29)**

5:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Teresa  
 Thummachart & Eric Rutherford

**Counting On You**

**September 16**

Worship Attendance ..... 289  
 Sunday School Attendance ..... 69

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## Serving Schedule—September 23, 2007

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Ed Acheson, Jan Baird

### Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

**St. Mary's Hospitals:** Mark Beal

**Decatur Memorial:** Janet Lyman

### 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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar, Bill Fogerson, Nicole Ropp

10:45 - Team 6 - Betty Chapman, Larry Chapman, Mark Beal, Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal

### Greeters:

8:15 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Ann Harshman, Donna Dash

10:45 - Dave & Christy Hanson, Dee Hill, Ruth Ewing

### Parish Nurse:

 Jane Latshaw

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Rachel Ash

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

### Children's Worship:

 Teri Bushey & Katie Powers

### Preparation of Communion:

Charles & Juanita Reynolds, Connie Schabowski, Nancy Taylor

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Bruce Williams

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

### September 26 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Coleen Myers

### Hosts:

Sept. 24 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray

12:30-4:00 - Ken Davis

Sept. 25 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

Sept. 26 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Sept. 27 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

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

Sept. 28 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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

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

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