



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, June 4, 2008

No. 23

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, June 11th!

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, June 11th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu includes Goulash, Tossed Salad, Texas Toast and Dessert. The food is lovingly prepared by the hands of Central volunteers and the meal is just \$4 per person (the best deal in town). Following lunch, **Cindy Soebbing** and **Kevin Wilmot** will share photos and stories from the recent mission trip to New Orleans.

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, June 9th, so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!

Hope Students Shoot Thousands of Hoops

Hope Academy Students spent an hour of their school day on June 3rd shooting free-throws in honor of the thousands of children orphaned each day by HIV/AIDS. Students from 4 years old through 8th grade participated in the event sponsored by the Youth and H2O volunteers of Central. Fundraising continues at <http://www.firstgiving.com/decaturope08> through the end of June.



SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

The Welcome Table

Text: Matthew 9:9-13

Robert Bushey, Jr.

Summer Sunday School Notes

Beginning June 8th Children & Youth Sunday School classes are invited to a continental style breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Hall every Sunday during June, July & August. The menu will include pastries, fruit, cereal, milk, juice, and coffee each week. Following breakfast, children grades K-5 will meet in the Great Hall for a time of singing based on our Vacation Bible School program while Junior High and High School classes will return to their classroom.



Save the Date
Central Family Day
at Nelson Park

Saturday, June 28

2:00-6:00 p.m.

Fun, Food, Games and more
for the entire family.

Tickets on sale soon

\$5 per person, \$15 per family



Central Youth

**Sunday, June 8th
Noon-6:30 p.m.
Youth-Led Worship at
Barton Stone Christian
Home**

Central youth will travel to Barton Stone Christian Home in Jacksonville, IL to lead an afternoon worship for the residents. The bus will leave from the church promptly at Noon and we will return by 6:30 p.m. We will stop in Springfield for supper on the way home. For more information speak to **Don Martin**.

**Sunday, June 15th
No Youth Activities**

**Sunday, June 22nd
4:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunday Night Special
Supper, Swimming and
More at Pastor Robert's
house. Grades 6-12. Bring a
dessert or snack food to
share. Friends are welcome!**

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is coming to Central, August 4th-8th from 9-11:45 a.m.! Experience the Power Lab! Registration will begin soon for children Pre-K – 6th Grades. Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of VBS this Summer!

Robert's Reflections

I was delighted when I received my June edition of *Disciples World* magazine. The front cover pictures a young boy in dim light surrounded by shadows and the title is *Out of the Shadows Understanding Autism*. I was delighted because I understand too well the shroud of mystery that often accompanies Autism and I was delighted that our church was making an effort to reach out to folks who have long been misunderstood.

Autism is a Pervasive Developmental Disorder which means that the disorder affects many aspects of a person's development such as interpersonal communication skills, motor skills and even intelligence levels. It is a social disorder affecting the way a person organizes their social responses to various situations and often their use and comprehension of language. For a person on the Autistic spectrum, typical patterns of social response or social skills are disordered or may not exist at all. Social skills are responses to stimuli that are hopefully socially appropriate. We learn from others to laugh at a good joke or we may cry when we learn that something sad has happened, we learn to lose a contest or game gracefully or we learn to converse with another while listening with interest to what the other has to say, we sit quietly when the congregation is seated in worship and we stand and participate when the congregation stands in worship. A person with Autism is challenged by each of these "sixth sense" responses or common social skills.

My brother-in-law, Todd, was diagnosed with severe Autism nearly 30 years ago after his verbal skills as a toddler changed from typical to non-existent. During his childhood, Todd often behaved in socially inappropriate ways. He had great difficulties with school even with special education services. And, during this difficult time for my in-laws, their Disciples congregation asked that they not bring Todd back because he was too disruptive in the childcare programs during worship. In essence, the family was told that they were welcome to worship as long as they did not bring their son with them. My father-in-law left the church and Christianity, never to return.

For many families, facing the challenges of Autism happens completely in the shadows. Because Autism is a spectrum disorder with a wide range of diagnoses, many families with children on the less severe end of the spectrum face these challenges alone. Children with forms of Autism such as Asperger's Syndrome, for instance, often look like any typically developing child, have typical or even exceptional levels of intelligence, and often are very talented in some interest area such as music, art, sciences, etc. Asperger's children often struggle with making transitions from one activity to the next, with changes in routines, with over-stimulating environments like "super stores" malls or even churches, with non-literal language and idioms, and with general social awareness. And so, when a child with this form of Autism reacts inappropriately to a social situation, family members are too often misjudged as too lenient or misunderstood as uncaring as they try to help their loved one cope with the situation and develop healthy social skills. And yet, these often quirky, intelligent, eccentric people have been some of our most accomplished persons in their field of interest throughout history. Albert Einstein probably lived with this form of Autism.

As a parent of a child with Asperger's Syndrome, I was delighted to read about the ways our congregations may reach out to persons with Autism. I was delighted that the church of my heritage is learning from lessons of the past and finding new ways to include all persons at the table of the Lord. I only wish my brother-in-law had been so welcomed. May we ever strive to commune at the welcome table of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Peace & Joy,
Robert

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Morris & Willie Birkhead** who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with an open reception on June 6, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., in South Side Country Club.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Larry & Betty Chapman** and family following the May 30th death of Larry’s mother, *Vera J. Chapman*.....and to **Gordon Gregory** following the June 3rd death of his wife, *Susan Gregory*.

Notes of Thanks Received

Thank you for the prayers, minister visits, food, and cards during Bill’s illness and recent passing.

Family of Bill Charlton

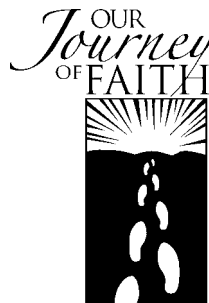
Dear Central Christian Church,

Thank you very much for your charitable contribution of \$500 on May 20 to the Youth Advocate program. Your kindness and support help us to provide services to the children and families in Macon County. Thank you again for this very important donation.

Michael Warner
CEO, Youth Advocate Program

We Really Want YOUR Story!

Many of you have read the collection of writings by Central members, *Our Journey of Faith*. In this little booklet, Central members share with us some parts of their faith stories – how they came to know Christ, how they’ve been involved in mission and ministry, how they came to Central and what it’s meant for them. If you haven’t had a chance to read this inspiring collection, they are available for you in the Friendship Center. Now, we want to hear (and read) YOUR story. Tell us something about your faith, something about your journey, something about the struggles you’ve overcome and the hope you have for the future. We hope to make Vol. 2 of the collection available soon. Try to limit your submission to around 250 words (or half a single-spaced typewritten page) or submit your story to the church by e-mail (preferred) at central@cccdisciples.org (please put “Faith Journey ” in the subject line) or by dropping it by the church office. The deadline for submission is June 17th. Thank you for sharing YOUR story!



PayDay Lending Update

Nearly fifty people attended the Central Illinois Organizing Project meeting to address the issue of predatory lending in our state. CIOP, an ecumenical faith-based organization of which Central is a member congregation, hoped to help support legislation to close loopholes in current laws concerning unjust interest rates of as much as 550%. However, the bill was sent back to committee to await the session of the Illinois Assembly in November.



Sunday, June 8, 2008

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Don Martin, Autoharp
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-Sunday School
12:00-Youth leave church for Barton
Stone Home service

Monday (9)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

Tuesday (10)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors’ Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor’s Study
4:00-H2O Volunteers, Hope School
5:00-CADV Meeting, Disciple Room

Wednesday (11)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Elderberries, Great Hall
12:00-Central Singers
6:30-Eclipsing Empire, Great Hall

Thursday (12)

10:00-Alanon, 212
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (14)

7:30-Elders’ Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

May 11

Worship Attendance	241
Sunday School Attendance	60

Serving Schedule—June 8, 2008

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Roe Skidmore, Claudia Quigg

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Melinda Hawbaker
Scott Hawbaker
Dee Hill
Karen McFadin
David Miller
Katie Miller
Janice Mitchell
Gary Rutherford
Andrew Rutherford
Doug Soebbing

Elders

Dick Cain
Chris Fagin
Keith Backes
Jan Dobbs
Larry Otis
Randy Brooks
Kevin Wilmot
Cindy Soebbing
Bruce Campbell
Mary Jane Linton
Alternate: Shirley Swarhout

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Larry Chapman, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Shelby Larrick, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, Max Sperry
10:00 - Team 4 - Kevin Otis, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Jordan Backes, Louise Boline, Mary Boyle, Shirley Brooks, Claudia Curry, Jon French, Melinda Hawbaker, Scott Hawbaker, Dee Hill, Bob Linton, Karen McFadin, David Miller, Katie Miller, Alex Otis, Andrew Otis, Kevin Ann Otis, Bryan Rutherford, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Brenda Tankersley, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston, Betty Scott, Dave Scott
10:00 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

Greeters:

8:00 - Virginia Griffith, Frances Heiserman
10:00 - Warren & Azalee Berner, Barb Tyler, Mary Boyle

Acolytes:

8:00 - Bobby Munos
10:00 - Avery Martin

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar
10:00 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Ed & Joy Adams, Bess & Harold King

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams
Sunday School and 10:00 service - Jan Patrick
10:00 service only - Richard Ward
June 11 Visitor Mailing Crew: Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

June 9 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
June 10 9:00-12:30 - Carl Morris
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer
June 11 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward
June 12 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford
12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins
June 13 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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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