



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, June 18, 2008

No. 25

Family Fun Day Saturday, June 28

Family Fun Day is coming! Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 28, at Nelson Park large pavilion, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This event, hosted by Central's Fellowship Department, offers something for everyone! Equipment for lawn games will be available beginning at 2 p.m., a fried chicken picnic will be served at 4 p.m., with passes for miniature golf available after 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Tickets will be on sale in the Friendship Center on Sundays, June 15 and June 22, or in the church office during the week.

Come for the games - bocce ball, washer toss, and frisbee. Bring your ball gloves. A children's playground will be available. Come for the food - fried chicken, slaw, chips, cookies and fruit. And most of all, come for the fellowship!

Family Fun Day promises great fun for all ages. It is also a great opportunity to bring a friend whom you'd like to introduce to others in your Central family. Bring your family; bring a friend. And plan now to attend!



Christmas in July

Each year the Christmas offering received in Disciples congregations goes to support the regional ministries of our church. Because there are so many different appeals for generosity at this time, the Christmas offering for our regional church does not receive the attention that it deserves.

This year the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin invites you to participate in "Christmas in July" and make a gift to our region's annual fund. If you want to contribute, you can make your check to Central Christian Church with the memo "CCIW," and the volunteers in the contributions office will give you credit for your gift, and the church will forward the amount to our regional office in Bloomington. Merry Christmas...in July!



SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2008
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
The Sword of the Lord

Text: Matthew 10:34-42
Charles Watkins

Welcome New Member



Welcome to **Alexandra West**, who joined Central by transfer of membership on Sunday, June 15.

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

Vacation Bible School is here at our very own Central Christian Church! Registration has begun for "Power Lab" August 4-8 from 9:00-11:45. Register now for the fun, just call the church office for more information.

We need your help to make this year's Vacation Bible School a success! Please call the church office or contact **Katie Powers** to volunteer.





CENTRAL YOUTH

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!

Saturday, June 28th

2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Central Family Day at Nelson Park!

Come out and enjoy the games including Miniature Golf!!

Tickets are \$5. Bring a friend and their ticket is FREE!

Sunday, June 29th

Cardboard Collection

9:00-9:15 a.m. and

11 a.m.-Noon

Central Youth will collect cardboard for recycling after both worship services on Sunday, June 29th. Youth available to help take the cardboard to the recycling center on Monday, June 30th should let Pastor Robert know that day.

Youth Volunteers for VBS!

Youth, Grades 7-12, Power Up for VBS and volunteer to help, August 4-8 from 9:00-11:45 a.m. Contact **Katie Powers** for more information.

Charles's Column

In the July 17 issue of *The Christian Century*, the following item in "Century Marks" caught my attention:

Out With the New:

By a ratio of almost 2 to 1, unchurched Americans prefer churches that look more like medieval cathedrals to the modern, utilitarian church facilities that currently are being constructed. This preference for the Gothic, found among both unchurched Catholics and unchurched Protestants, is even more pronounced among people between the ages of 25 and 34. "I don't like modern churches; they seem cold," said one survey respondent. "I like the smell of candles burning, stained-glass windows [and] an intimacy that's transcendent."

(survey by LifeWay Research)

Wow! Have I got a church for those unchurched Americans between the ages of 25 and 34!

At Central Christian Church, we have not only a breath-taking "English Country Gothic" sanctuary with Celtic art-glass windows, but we have the worship experiences to go with it...

❖ that welcome all people, or as the weekly worship bulletin says: *This church, a community of seekers and disciples of Christ, is committed to full hospitality to all of God's children.*

❖ that include a rich blend of traditional Christian hymns that have lived in the worship of the faithful for centuries along with more recent expressions of faith and praise.

❖ that feature a dramatic pipe organ played with passion and artistry Sunday by Sunday and powered by wind technology from seven hundred years ago and by computers with blinking lights deep within the three-manual console.

❖ that honor a tradition of lay leadership both male and female which every Sunday leads the congregation in the most ancient and sacred ritual of the Christian faith around the Lord's Table

❖ that are lifted high by glorious offerings of music by choirs and soloists both vocal and instrumental

❖ that faithfully preach the word of God within the context of contemporary needs and concerns

❖ that include candles and prayers and psalms, processions and affirmations of faith and liturgical resources for children in worship.

Do you know any young people (or older ones) who are looking for exactly your kind of church? They can't imagine what is available to them at Central unless you tell them. This week. Tell them!

Charles Watkins



News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Gordon Gregory** and family following the June 15th death of Gordon's mother, *Dorothy Irene Gregory*, of Deland.

Youth Cardboard Recycling Date Set!

Many of you have been asking when our next cardboard collection will be, which means that your storage space is filling up! This month Central Youth will collect cardboard near the church garage on **Sunday, June 29th**. Youth will be available to unload your vehicle after both morning worship services. Acceptable cardboard includes corrugated, uncoated, clean food containers, dry goods boxes, tissue boxes, etc. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept fast food containers such as cups or French fry boxes. Please, help us by emptying your boxes of foam packaging, tissue paper, or other contents. Boxes should be broken down whenever possible. Remember, the cardboard recycling is a service project and not a fundraiser for our youth.



Counting On You

June 15

Worship Attendance 293
Sunday School Attendance 69

During the month of May, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$44,565 which is \$6,587 below the giving goal for the month.

Expenses to operate the church in May were \$64,026 which is \$1,575 less than the amount budgeted. The cost of carrying on our church's ministries in May exceeded total income by \$12,341. In the first five months of this year, it has cost \$32,327 more to do the work of our church than our church has received from all sources. Though our congregation has finished each of the last two years "in the black," the current deficit is like the alarming ones in 2004 and 2005.

All outreach commitments for May both locally and globally were paid in full.

Gifts to the *Preserving our Past...Securing Our Future* capital campaign during May were \$7,998. The church's total indebtedness stands at \$43,000.

Your regular and generous giving keeps Central going! We're counting on you! Be sure to do your best for your church, so that your church can do its best for God. Detailed monthly financial reports for the congregation and for the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter in the Friendship Center by the church office. You can pick up a copy and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



Sunday, June 22, 2008

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Karen Driver, Soprano
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-Sunday School
4:30-Youth Sunday Night Special,
Robert Bushey's house

Tuesday (24)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastor's Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study

Wednesday (25)

8:30-Oasis Day Center Meeting,
Great Hall
9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 290
6:30-Eclipsing Empire, Great Hall

Thursday (26)

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

Saturday (28)

2:00-6:00-Family Fun Day, Nelson Park
Pavilion

Greeters Needed

Have you noticed those smiling faces that greet you each morning when you walk through the church doors for worship? Have you ever thought that you would like to be a greeter? Well, now is your chance. We are assigning greeters for July, August, and September and would like to have your name on the list. If you are interested or need more information, please contact the church office or **Donna Strong**.



Serving Schedule—June 22, 2008

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Wayne Honeycutt, Sue Ann Cain

Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

St. Mary's Hospital: Elder Chris Fagin

Decatur Memorial: Elder Bruce Campbell

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

10:00 - Team 9 - Bruce Stoddard, Capt., Carol Stoddard, Kevin Miller, Kim Miller, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, York Powers

Greeters:

8:00 - Dean & Janet Gray, Bob & Wanda Webb

10:00 - Ron & Jan Dobbs, Ed & Lucy Acheson

Acolytes:

8:00 - Bobby Munos

10:00 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Ed & Joy Adams, Bess & Harold King

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Doug Soebbing

10:00 service only - Karen Baird

June 25 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl

Hosts:

June 23 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

June 24 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Swallow

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

June 25 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

June 26 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

June 27 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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

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 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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