



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, July 2, 2008

No. 27

Emergency Fund - Helping Those in Need

Generous contributions throughout the year to the Central's Emergency Fund provide emergency assistance for individuals and families who find themselves in need. Your gifts provide assistance with prescription medicines, transportation assistance and a variety of other types of help. Working closely with agencies such as the Macon Assistance eXchange (MAX) program, the Good Samaritan Inn (soup kitchen), the Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry, the Oasis Day Center, DOVE, and Catholic Charities, Central works with persons in need or in crisis. The Emergency Fund exists completely through donations from members and friends of Central. Sunday, July 6 and Sunday, July 13, we will receive a special offering for the Emergency Fund. Envelopes are provided in the pew pockets. Please, consider this vital outreach



ministry for our neighborhood and wider community with a gift to the fund. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of people right here in Decatur. Thank you!

Kroger Cares Cards for Local Mission Partners

The Christian Action and Community Service Department invites you to participate in a new fundraising program for local outreach ministries through the Kroger Cares Fundraising Program. Beginning on Sunday, July 20th, you may purchase Kroger Cares Gift/Debit Cards from the church office. The cards will be available in \$10 and \$50 amounts and may be reloaded with funds up to \$500 whenever you visit a Kroger store locally or nationwide. There are no hidden fees or costs associated with this program. It's really as easy as 1,2,3,4.

Here's how the program works:

1. Purchase a Kroger Cares Card from the church for \$10 or \$50
Cash or Check payable to *Central Christian Church*.
2. Use the card to pay for your purchases at your local Kroger store.
You may still use your Kroger Plus Card as usual.
3. Reload the card at your local Kroger store with up to \$500 each refill.
Reloads may be made at the Customer Service Counter or the Cashier
4. Continue to use/refill the card and support Central's local mission partners!
Wow! That's all there is to it!

The cards may also be given away as gifts. Be sure to tell the recipient that the card is refillable and will support ministries important to your church. CACS will receive 5% of all card purchases and "reloads" to then be given to local outreach programs such as Dove, Habitat for Humanity, Oasis Day Center, Good Samaritan Inn, etc. Watch for the display in the Friendship Center on July 20th!

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2008
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Easier Yokes and
Lighter Burdens
 Text: Matthew 11:25-30
 Charles Watkins

Camp Walter Scott Work Week July 21-26

Becky Lewis, Camp Manager says, "There are many projects that need to be completed including, but not limited to, the following: cutting and splitting fallen or dead trees, rebuilding the retaining wall at the beach, finish work on the cabin extensions started on Miracle Day 2007 and a myriad of other tasks. Please consider this stewardship opportunity. Can you work the week or just a day or two? Accommodations are first come, first served and meals are provided." Please call Becky at (217) 739-2332 by July 14 to let her know you are coming. Thanks!

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

**Have a Fun and Safe
4th of July Weekend!**

**Friday, July 18th
Mid-Summer Break Blast
6 p.m. - Midnight**

Electronic Games, Food,
Worship & Fun!
Youth Grades 6th (08/09)
- 12th (07/08)
\$3 per person
Friends are FREE!

**Sunday, July 27th
4:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunday Night Special
Rain or Shine!**

Supper, Swimming and
More at Pastor Robert's
house. Grades 6th (08/09)-
12(07/08). The Grill will be
COOKIN! Bring a dessert or
snack food to share. Friends
are welcome! Future Dates:
August 3rd & August 17th.

Youth Volunteers for VBS

Central Youth are encour-
aged to volunteer to help
with VBS which will be held
August 4-8 from 9-11:45 a.m.
Contact **Katie Powers** for
more information.

Charles's Column

A few days ago I got an e-mail from an old seminary chum, ("old" meaning that he is a year younger than I am) commending to my attention a recent article from the Alban Institute. The Alban Institute is North American Christianity's "think tank" in Washington, D.C. I have been a member of the institute for decades, regularly read its *Congregations* newsletter, many of its books, and have tried out many of its ideas on you.

The article which I had skimmed and disregarded was one which my friend identified as explaining why he had failed in his last two settled pastorates before he went into full-time interim ministry. It is an article by Elizabeth I. Steele with a startling title: *How Responding to People's Needs Hurts the Church*. The article focuses on expectations in the congregation. People often join a church in hopes that the congregation will meet their needs—spiritual, psychological, and sometimes even financial. Because needs are often confused with wants, there is frequently huge disappointment which leads to anger which is often focused on the failings of pastors.

The Reverend Ms. Steele observes "people turn to the church for emotional and spiritual well-being. They envision the church providing what they think they need to ensure contentment and satisfaction. Their confusion between needs and wants means their attitude often becomes not 'Is this congregation meeting my needs?' but 'Is this congregation giving me what I want?' They come believing the church will have as its priority, in terms of time and effort, taking care of whatever they feel is important." This approach often leaves people believing that the church has let them down.

Here at Central Christian Church, we rejoice when we can meet the genuine needs of people. But that is not our central goal. Our purpose here is to give you the opportunity to serve God and love your neighbors. Our church is not about what it can do for you, but what you can do for Jesus Christ and the world that God loves so much. The happy experience of many across the life of this congregation is that in answering Jesus's call to discipleship and service, our deepest spiritual needs are met in our conscientious and committed loving of God and serving our hurting neighbors.

Central Christian Church provides for you opportunities to meet the needs of a hurting world, to transcend your own personal circumstances and become involved in a cause much greater than yourself, the cause of proclaiming the wonderful good news that God cares, that God loves, and that God saves. God is so good!

Charles Watkins



News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Virginia & Don Swallow** and family following the June 23rd death of Virginia's uncle *Forrest Chester "Frosty" Ledbetter* of Sullivan, IL.

Disciples Respond to Midwest Flooding

According to the WOC website: To date Week of Compassion has sent a total of \$41,000 to the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest for flood relief to churches and members affected in at least 11 different congregations, and the list of persons needing assistance seems to be ever-increasing. We would like to share the following message from **Liz Woodward**, pastor of First Christian Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa:

"Delivering the WOC solidarity checks has been an amazing experience. Each and every family is overwhelmed with gratitude and humbled by the strength and support of the whole church. One man tried to say "thanks" this morning in worship; we simply cried together. There are not adequate words to express this congregation's gratitude. We are truly blessed to be a part of God's family known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) I only wish the words carried the depth of gratitude and thanksgiving felt by this congregation."

Indiana Disciples congregations have received a total of \$37,000 for flood relief, and WOC continues to communicate with the regional and area ministers in Missouri and Illinois on any needs they might encounter. You may make a donation to help the WOC flood relief effort through Central by marking your check FLOOD or directly to WOC at <http://www.weekofcompassion.org>

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, July 9th!

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, July 9th at noon in the Great Hall.

This month's menu includes Ham Salad on a Croissant, Potato Chips, Pickles, Apple Salad, and Strawberry Shortcake. The food is lovingly prepared by the hands of Central volunteers and the meal is just \$4 per person (truly the best deal in town).

Following lunch, **Scott England** of WAND will share stories of his popular series, "Where in the World is Scott England?"

To sign up, please 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, July 7th so don't delay, reserve your place at the table today!



Sunday, July 6, 2008

8:00 and 10:00- Worship Services
Music: 8:00 Offertory-Janice Mitchell, Soprano; Cindy Soebbing, Alto; Marilyn Ward, Piano
10:00 Offertory-Chancel Choir; Marilyn Ward, Piano; Karen Driver, Narrator; Shelby Larrick, Soprano
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw
9:00-Sunday School

Tuesday (8)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
10:00-1:00-ESL Summer Family Camp, Great Hall
5:00-CADV Meeting, Disciple Room

Wednesday (9)

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

Thursday (10)

10:00-Alanon, 212
10:00-1:00-ESL Summer Family Camp, Great Hall
6:00-VBS Volunteer Training, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (12)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Counting On You

June 29

Worship Attendance 304
Sunday School Attendance 58

Serving Schedule—July 6, 2008

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00- Cindy Soebbing, Kevin Miller

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Mary Jane Linton & Kevin Wilmot

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Jared Carter, Megan Carter, Larry Chapman, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Shelby Larrick, Carol McClure, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, Max Sperry

10:00 - Team 4 - Kevin Otis, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie 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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar

10:00 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal, Charlotte Lyon, Barb Tyler

Greeters:

8:00 - Harold & Bess King, Merle & Bev Chapman

10:00 - Carroll & Doris Little, Julie & Zach Martin

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:00 - Sam Funk

10:00 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:00 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Brenda & Don Tankersley, Bill & LeEtta Bass, Jane Latshaw

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:00 service only - Ron Oliver

July 9 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

Hosts:

July 7 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

July 8 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

July 9 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

July 10 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

July 11 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700
HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
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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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