



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, July 23, 2008

No. 30

## Can I Help with Vacation Bible School?

**YES YOU CAN!**

But I can't be there everyday!

That doesn't matter.

We need help in so many other ways:

Your prayers - you can pray from home

Your stuff - we are looking for test tubes, beakers, lava lamps, shade of blue and gray round balloons, and many more

Your presence on our VBS staff - even if you can only help a couple of days, we can sure use YOU!

Your financial support - Vacation Bible School is free for children attending our VBS but all the books, crafts, snacks, decorations, etc... cost a lot of money and we really need YOUR help to keep the cost down so we can continue this program each year.

A successful Vacation Bible School is a whole church event - without you this program couldn't be possible. Please consider helping!

Mark these dates on your calendar: August 4-8. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 11:45 a.m.

Stop by the table in the Friendship Center on Sunday or call the church office (428-4336) to register your children for this awesome power-packed adventure!

**Katie Powers**, Your Power Lab Director



**SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008**  
**WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00**  
**Pervasive and Irresistible**

Text: Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

Robert Bushey

## Funtimers Excursion - August 15

A trip is being planned to visit the Reagan Museum on the campus of Eureka College and to tour the grounds at the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center in rural Metamora.

The Ronald Reagan Museum features a collection of over 2,000 items from President Reagan's student days at Eureka, his movie and television career, his eight years as governor of California, his campaign for presidency and his two terms in office. At the request of Mr. Reagan, the first items in the collection came to the college in 1975. It is now the largest collection of Reagan memorabilia outside of the Reagan library in California. We will also have an opportunity to visit the Peace Garden, dedicated by Eureka College to commemorate President Reagan's commitment to world peace and "The Eureka Speech" he presented at the College.

After lunch at a local restaurant we will travel a short distance to the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Society just outside Metamora. On these grounds there is an old barn and a house both with large collections of artifacts. A guided tour is available for those who want to hear the Mennonite story.

The church bus will leave at 9:00 a.m. and return at approximately 5:00 p.m. Please sign up in the Friendship Center. Your host on this trip will be **Don Martin**.

## Kroger Cares Cards for Local Mission Partners

You may now purchase Kroger Cares Gift/Debit Cards from the church office. The cards will be available in \$10 amounts and may be reloaded with funds up to \$500 whenever you visit a Kroger store locally or nationwide. Your gift card purchase cannot be credited on your annual giving record for tax purposes.

Here's how the program works. Purchase a Kroger Cares Card from the church for \$10 with cash or check payable to Central Christian Church. Use the card to pay for your purchases at your local Kroger store. 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. Kroger 1,2,3 Rewards Card users receive 2 points per dollar on reloads when they use their 1,2,3 Rewards Card for the reload. Continue to use/refill the card and support Central's local mission partners! 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. See the display in the Friendship Center!



## Central Youth

**Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday Night Special  
Rain or Shine!**

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

**Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**- Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Celebration Parking Lot**

Central youth will park cars at National City Bank at the corner of Eldorado Street and Main Street during the Decatur Celebration. Contact **Pastor Robert** to sign up for the hours you are available to work. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we need your help! As usual a tithe of our earnings will be given to outreach.

**Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**- Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Cedar Point Adventure**

(See Article p. 3)

### **Youth Volunteers for VBS**

Central Youth are encouraged to volunteer to help with VBS which will be held August 4-8 from 9-11:45 a.m. Contact **Katie Powers** at 972-0671 or [kcpygp@yahoo.com](mailto:kcpygp@yahoo.com) for more information.

### **Robert's Reflections**

Recently, I was invited to write an article on faith and community organizing to be published in the Central Illinois Organizing Project's summer newsletter. Below is the message I shared with fellow community organizers throughout Central Illinois:

#### **Right Here, Right Now, Today!**

Writing from prison in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul invited his friend Philemon to do the right thing and free his slave Onesimus. A careful reading of this brief letter in the New Testament notes that more than once, Paul stops short of commanding Philemon to free Onesimus, but instead encourages him to do this good work on the basis of his faith. *Though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love...in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced* (Philemon 8-9, 14). For Paul, it was never an issue of faith vs. works. Faith did not exist without works for Paul and neither should works exist without faith. A deeply God-centered life compels the believer to act in and through one's faith. And, this has been the case since God's covenants with Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and through the revelation of God's reign made known in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Faith has been the source and guide of my work as both a minister of the gospel and as a community organizer. Whether I am organizing efforts to provide wrap around services for homeless persons or public school students, or gathering people to give voice to their faith in regards to predatory lending practices or unjust housing practices, I do so because of my faith in God's realm in our midst, right here and right now. While some may believe that God's Kingdom will come, I believe that God's Reign of justice and righteousness is a present reality within the hearts of devout believers who do not hide that reality in their hearts, or their synagogues, or churches, or mosques. Consistently throughout the gospels, Jesus teaches the present reality of the kingdom of God. Paul does likewise in his letters to the early church, and the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures constantly called the nation of Israel to remember the present reign of God. The world around us does not reflect the reality of God's Realm within us. And, that is why people of faith continue to act for peace and justice in our communities.

Organizing or faith in action, for me then, is not about a world to come, but rather about this world and God's call upon my life *to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God* in this world. My journey with God has not been without losses, defeats, and set-backs. And yet, as one *in Christ Jesus, clothed with Christ* organizing for a just and equal community is inseparable from my identity as a person of faith. God's reign is powerful and merciful, just and full of grace. My experience in organizing is integral to my vocation as a minister for God's Realm in our midst - a ministry that I share with all who belong to God. Sisters and brothers, may we share together as we act on our faith and thus reveal the Realm of God's peace and justice, right here, right now, today! Shalom and Amen.

*Robert*

#### **Note of Thanks Received**

I would like to thank all the pastors for their visits while I was in St. Mary's Hospital.

**James J. Rogers**

## Cedar Point Adventure!

Youth Grades 6<sup>th</sup> (08/09)-12<sup>th</sup> (07/08) are invited to travel to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, OH Friday, August 8-Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. We will leave at 5 p.m. Friday and stop over in Indianapolis where we will attend Shabbat Service at Temple Beth El Zedeck on Saturday morning. The synagogue is served by a Rabbinical couple, Dennis and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. The Sassos are very active in Jewish-Christian dialogue and Sandy is the author of several award winning children's books. On Sunday we will spend the day at Cedar Point where we will find 17 rollercoasters and Soak City Water Park waiting for us! Cost is \$100 per person plus extra money for food and souvenirs at CP. Register today!

*You Are Invited to a Birthday Celebration  
Honoring Richard Funk on his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 2  
in the Activities Center  
at Fair Havens Christian Home*

Cards and Birthday Wishes may also be sent to:  
Richard Funk  
Fair Havens Christian Home  
1790 S. Fairview  
Decatur, IL 62521

## Plan Now for This Fall's Regional Assembly

You are invited to join your regional church family when it gathers in assembly November 14-16, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield under the theme *Facing Frontiers Faithfully*. Assembly speakers will include **the Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins**, the 7<sup>th</sup> General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) elected and installed at the 2005 General Assembly in Portland. **The Rev. Dr. Beth Dobyns**, Acting Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin will present her biennial report on the state of the church. **The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Lowery**, interim dean and vice-president of Lexington Theological Seminary and a scholar of the texts and traditions of ancient Israel will also address the assembly.

You can register now for the assembly and for housing at either the Crowne Plaza Hotel or nearby at the Holiday Inn Express. The registration form will soon be available on our region's website: [www.cciwdisciples.org](http://www.cciwdisciples.org), or our church office can print one off for you. Get this on your calendar now so that the date doesn't sneak up on you.



### Sunday, July 27, 2008

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services  
8:00 Offertory-Brenda Clark, Piano  
8:00 Anthem-Central Singers  
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-Sunday School  
4:30- Youth Sunday Night Special at  
Robert Bushey's house

### Monday (28)

6:30-Just Flicks Planning Meeting,  
Disciple Room

### Tuesday (29)

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

### Wednesday (30)

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

### Thursday (31)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
10:00-1:00-ESL Summer Family Camp,  
Great Hall  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Decatur Celebration Parking/ Volunteer Opportunities

Heritage Behavioral Health Center is looking for volunteers to help with the collection of parking fees during the Decatur Celebration at their lot at the City Plaza at the corner of Eldorado and Franklin Streets. All proceeds from this lot will benefit the Oasis Day Center. Any amount of time you can give will be greatly appreciated. Contact **Leslie Risby** ([lrisky@heritagenet.org](mailto:lrisky@heritagenet.org) or at Ext. 4801) with the date and time you are available to volunteer.

**Serving Schedule—July 27, 2008**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:00 - Dick Cain, Mark Beal

**Deacons:**

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Brittney Munos, Gail Prince, Larry Prince, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox

10:00 - Team 2 - Richard Ward, Capt., Cathy Ash, Jim Ash, Neil Baird, Debbie Bateman, Philip Bateman, Azalee Berner, Warren Berner, Dale Ford, Judy Ford, Erik Harm, Christine Lyman-Harm, Daniel Hinze, David Martin, Julie Martin, Ron Oliver, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Lawrence Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

**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 - Rita Woods, Roe Skidmore, David & Connie Shields

10:00 - Ed & Jean Voice, Andy & Theresa Fulk

**Acolytes:**

8:00 - Bobby Munos

10:00 - Joshua Bushey

**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 - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Keith Backes

10:00 service only - Brett Swallow

**July 30 Visitor Mailing Crew:** Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

**Hosts:**

July 28 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

July 29 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

July 30 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

July 31 9:00-12:30 - Louise Boline  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Aug. 1 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
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 Burkhams, 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, Paula Gruen ..... 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.

**Counting On You**

**July 20**

Worship Attendance ..... 254  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 69



**Central Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

