



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, July 30, 2008

No. 31

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. 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 is **Don Martin**.

Become a Covenant Partner

Good Samaritan Inn has fed one million people since it was started in Decatur twenty-six years ago. The mission of the Inn is to feed hungry, economically disadvantaged persons a hot, nutritious meal. Funding has always been a constant concern, and recent chaos in the budgeting process of the State of Illinois has brought new urgency for all local social service agencies.

Central Christian Church has always been a mission partner with Good Sam and regularly provides volunteer help, weekend meal preparation, and funding through the General Operating Fund. Recently our Mission Funding Task Force set aside \$15,000 for needed equipment.

Central also provides funding in our operation budget. The Covenant Partner program is open to individuals who can donate \$24 per person each year. Your gift can be sent to The Good Samaritan Inn Covenant Partners Program, 543 N. Water Street, Decatur, IL 62523.

Hunger Relief Task Force Needs Your Help!

The Hunger Relief Task Force needs more volunteers to help serve our next meal Saturday, August 16th. If you can help, please sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday or contact **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2008
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Wrestling with God
Text: Genesis 32:22-31
Charles Watkins

Who Are We?

What does it mean to be a Disciple? The 21st Century Vision team of our denomination has accepted the assignment of answering that question and drafting a new identity statement for our church. The General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has adopted the new "thumb-nail sketch" to be used to complement earlier statements such as the Preamble to The Design which appears in the *Chalice Hymnal* and which we use from time to time in our worship services following the *Gloria Patri*.

The new statement of identity reads:

"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."



Central Youth

**Friday, August 1st
- Sunday, August 3rd
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 8th
- Monday, August 11th
Cedar Point Adventure**

Youth Grades 6th (08/09)-12th (07/08) are invited to travel to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, OH Friday, August 8-Monday, August 11th. 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. 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.

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 for more information.

Charles's Column

When I was a freshman in college, I became a charter member of Garrison Keillor's P.O.E.M (Professional Organization of English Majors), and I was instantly overwhelmed with the amount of reading I had to do. It was such a rapid escalation in volume of material over high school that I was struggling. So I took the Evelyn Woods Speed Reading Course. It was effective in that it taught me that if I rapidly scan a page, two eye-movements per line only (and just keep turning the pages every 30 seconds), I can get through a book pretty fast. Testing after the speed reading convinced me that in the fast-skimming method, I had about an 80% comprehension of what I read. That would be only a B-, and besides, it wasn't really a satisfying way to engage literature. It was just lines and content, but no real appreciation of style and language and the art of image and expression.

My next step in study was to theological seminary, where I now had to read in ancient languages—Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. And it was a wholly different discipline. Instead of trying to digest great volumes of material, the emphasis was on learning to understand in depth every single word. Careful exegesis of scripture requires that one understand each word, its root and origin, its common usage, its tense and conjugation or case, and its context. One semester my focus in Hebrew Bible was primarily on Isaiah 5:1-7, *The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard*.

It is a poem which God's prophet Isaiah sang in the marketplace during an agricultural festival when the entire community was celebrating, singing, dancing, and drinking lots of wine. It was an 8th Century B.C.E. Decatur Celebration with lots of music, festivity and fun. But of course, Isaiah's song of the vineyard was not fun. It was a pronouncement of disappointed judgment upon the vineyard (Israel) which God had planted so carefully and tended so conscientiously, and yet in spite of all God's effort the yield was sour grapes: God expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry of the oppressed.

Because of my immersion in this little poem for an entire semester, it remains one of my favorite texts in the Bible, and it continues to haunt me. God continually invests so much in us and with such high hopes for a wonderful yield, and God keeps being disappointed by what we produce: bloodshed, and the cry of the oppressed. (In Hebrew, it's a pun, but quite a serious one.)

There then came a day when I had to make a choice—whether to become a scholar and teacher or a preacher. Clearly you know the choice I made, and yet I still want to share with you the deep power of the biblical text when it is fully and deeply understood. In the gift of the Bible, God wants to speak directly to us and wants us truly to understand. I am grateful that you indulge my flights into arcane minutiae from time to time, and I hope you know that I truly want you to understand God's truth.

Charles Watkins

Central Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels

Central helps deliver Meals on Wheels two weeks each year. Our next week for delivery is August 25-29. Several volunteers are needed to deliver as many as 5 routes of about 20 meals per day. The meals are picked up at Decatur Memorial Hospital between 10:30-10:45 a.m. Volunteers, who do not have a background check release on file with Meals on Wheels/Catholic Charities, must complete a form available at the church office. You may sign up in the Friendship Center or by calling the church office at 428-4336. For the past several years, **Dottie Scholes** has coordinated our Meals on Wheels partnership and we appreciate her time and effort to recruit and schedule volunteers from Central!

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Billy & Miranda Malone** on the July 18th birth of their daughter **Delainey Rose**. Delainey is also welcomed home by big brother **Conor**, proud grandma **Kim Teschner**, and great-grandparents **Dean & Sue Simcox**.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Joan Stewart** and family following the July 25th death of her husband, **Charles E. "Chuck" Stewart**.

The Christian Church of Illinois/Wisconsin and the congregation of Prairie Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

cordially invite your presence and prayers for the Ordination to Christian Ministry of **JASON ALBERT BUTTERICK**

Sunday, August 17, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
Prairie Avenue Christian Church
2201 E. Prairie Avenue
Decatur, Illinois

Reception at the Church following the service

Counting On You

July 27

Worship Attendance233
Sunday School Attendance 63

During the first half of 2008, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$315,231 which is \$26,670 below the giving goal for the first six months of this year.

Expenses to operate the church the first quarter were \$395,745 which is \$14,907 below the budgeted amount. Carrying on our church's mission and ministries in the first half of 2008 have cost \$25,000 more than the church has received from all sources.

All outreach commitments through June both locally and globally were paid in full.

Gifts to the *Preserving Our Past...Securing Our Future* capital campaign during the first half of 2008 were \$65,742. The church's building fund debt now stands at \$45,000.

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 by the church office in the Friendship Center along with minutes of the last church council meeting. You can always pick up copies and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



Sunday, August 3, 2008

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Rachel West, Piano
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw
9:00-Sunday School

Monday (4)

9:00-11:45-Vacation Bible School
6:30-CACS, 290

Tuesday (5)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
9:00-11:45-Vacation Bible School
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study

Wednesday (6)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
9:00-11:45-Vacation Bible School
12:00-Central Singers
6:30-Eclipsing Empire, Great Hall

Thursday (7)

9:00-11:45-Vacation Bible School
10:00-Alanon, 212
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (8)

9:00-11:45-Vacation Bible School
5:00- Youth Trip to Cedar Point

Saturday (9)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room

Vacation Bible School

Powers Up!

August 4-8

9:00-11:45 a.m.

Power Lab is great fun for children of all ages! Parents, grandparents and friends are also invited to join us each day at 11:30 a.m., when we'll be having Faith Fusion Finale - a daily celebration of Jesus' power you won't want to miss! Join us!



Serving Schedule—August 3, 2008

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Mike Holbrook, Jo Carter

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, 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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos, Willie Birkhead

10:00 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Capt., Marilyn Blank, Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Dick Cain, Sue Ann Cain

Greeters:

8:00 - Darla & Norman Lienemann, Ed & Joy Adams

10:00 - Jim & Lois Whitaker, Glen & Jody Featherstun

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:00 - Brad Munos

10:00 - Alexis Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Diane & Robert Reed, Connie Ogden, Connie Schabowski,
Linda Shambaugh

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:00 service only - Ron Oliver

August 6 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

Hosts:

Aug. 4 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

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

Aug. 5 9:00-12:30 - Gail Prince

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

Aug. 6 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Aug. 7 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson

12:30-4:00 - Linn Cummins

Aug. 8 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King

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 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, 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.



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

