



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, August 13, 2008

No. 33

Vacation Bible School 2008 Concludes

What an amazing week we had! We had a total of 30 children enrolled in the program. Our staff included: **Claudia Quigg, Betsy Osman, Tina King, Julie Martin, Jody Featherstun, Betty Scott, Kevin Wilmot, Christine Lyman-Harm, Erik Harm, Rosie Doore, Louise Boline, Evelyn Sperry, Ann Raddatz, Daniel Hinze, Suzie Miller, Kathy Cobb, Kristie Cobb, Shirley Swarthout, Diana Bauer, Kaylene Beal, Larry Pepper, Don Martin, Robert Bushey, Teri Bushey, Kim Miller, Nicole Ropp, Pat Beals, Valerie Rozanski, Gerri Munos, Pat Ash, Jessica Books, Ginger Flanders, David Martin, Sean Beal, Andrew Rutherford, Carole Holbrook, Lois Whitaker, Ed Acheson, Patrick Moran, Kathy Pepper, Avery Martin, Jane Watkins, David Flanders, Dean Hadden, Rudi Descaro, Charles Wallace, Jarrett Bednar, and Brittany Munos.** All of these people helped either during the week as crew leaders, station leaders, or helping in some other way during or before the week began.

In our offering we raised \$338.40. This money will cover the costs of the special soccer balls (GO-Balls) and Bible Books and mailing them to our young friends in South Africa. This program is part of a Global Sports Ministry through Operation Kid-to-Kid.

We are grateful to all of you who supported this wonderful week in any way! We recieved so many donations of supplies, decorations, donations, and prayers. There was a great group of people who decorated and help prepare for the week. What a blessing to work a program that is strongly supported!

Thank you for a "POWERFUL" Vacation Bible School!

Katie Powers



SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

Jesus on Vacation

Text: Matthew 15:21-28

Charles Watkins

Shaping Regional Ministry

The Visioning Team, appointed by the Board of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin has spent the past seven months exploring the future shape of our regional ministry. Now the team wants to involve you in its discussion.

Come, catch the vision and join the *Partnership for the Journey Conversations!* The sessions closest to us (an hour and half in length) are on Thursday, August 28 at University Place Christian Church in Champaign (7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.), Tuesday September 2 at First Christian Church in Sullivan or Springfield (7:00-8:30 p.m.).

Anyone who is interested in the future of our regional church is invited to attend and participate.

Music Opportunities at Central

Each Sunday at worship are several opportunities for musical offerings. Chancel Choir sings every Sunday and rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. Chancel Bells play in worship several times a year. They also meet on Thursday evenings from 6:00-6:45. Central Singers is a ladies group that meets on Wednesday from 12:00-1:00. They sing in worship once a month and offer programs at nursing homes and other facilities. There are also opportunities for solo and ensembles, either vocal or instrumental. If you would like to offer your talents, please contact **Don Martin**, 428-4336.



Central Youth

**Sunday, August 17th
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). We will be making plans for the coming school year. Don't miss this last blast of Summer before School is Back in Session! The Grill will be **COOKIN!** Bring a dessert or snack food to share. Friends are always welcome!

**Sunday, August 24th
Cardboard Collection**

Central Youth are needed to collect cardboard for recycling near the Church Garage after both morning worship services.



**Sunday, August 31st
Central Youth will Not Meet**

Charles's Column

With gasoline at \$4 a gallon and plane tickets swollen by extra charges for curb-side check-in, a pillow, and an aisle seat, you may be looking for a religious pilgrimage closer to home than Jerusalem, Rome, or Santiago de Compostela. And happily there is an important religious shrine quite nearby.

Gustav Niebuhr with his wife Lydia moved to Lincoln, Illinois in 1902 to become pastor of St. John's Evangelical Church. Additionally, he was administrator of Deaconess Hospital. All four of Gustav and Lydia's children grew up and were confirmed at the church in Lincoln: Hulda, Reinhold, Richard, and Walter.

Time magazine once called the Niebuhr clan "the Trapp family of theology" because it produced so many distinguished professors of Christian studies.

The most famous in popular culture was the oldest son Reinhold Niebuhr who became St. John's pastor temporarily after his father's death in 1913. Reinhold Niebuhr graduated from Yale University Divinity School, became a pastor in Detroit, then a professor at Union Theological Seminary in Manhattan (where Disciples of Christ scholar Serene Jones becomes its first woman president this fall). Reinhold Niebuhr wrote the well-known "Serenity Prayer":

*God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time,
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it,
trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will,
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.*

This prayer has been adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous and by many wise people of every faith. Reinhold Niebuhr was a respected scholar, author, and influential thinker

The second Neibuhr son, Richard taught for thirty-one years at Yale Divinity School and wrote volumes which are still required reading in theological seminaries. He was the teacher of my teachers at Yale.

Their older sister Hulda Niebuhr was a pioneer in Christian Education, graduated from Boston University, wrote creative materials for use in Sunday School and published two books on how drama and story might be used in education ministries of the church. She was the first woman to hold the rank of full professor at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

If you travel to Lincoln, Illinois, where this illustrious family of theologians grew up, and if you visit St. John's United Church of Christ, 204 - 7th Street, just a block west of Union Street, you can see an historic plaque on the east side of the church honoring the significant contributions of this amazing family to theological scholarship and Christian faith. You will not be charged for a blanket or a pillow.

~Charles Watkins

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 On the Road Again

Six youth, two adults and a future youth group member are pictured here as they traveled through Decatur, IN on their way home from Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, OH. While *America's Roller Coaster* was a thrill, the visit to Temple Beth El Zedek in Indianapolis, where they attended the Shabat Shalom service, was an exceptional experience as well.

A Few Meals on Wheels Routes are Still Available

Several Central volunteers have signed up to deliver meals this month. Currently routes are available on Monday, August 25th and Friday, August 29th. The meals are picked up at Decatur Memorial Hospital between 10:30 a.m.–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.



Taste Stephen Ministry

You are invited to learn more about the Stephen Ministry on Monday, August 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the church parlor just inside the west entrance. Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one Christian care program for the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge. Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training to provide Christ-centered, confidential care for the hurts and needs of fellow church members. Visit with Central's Stephen Ministers and find out more at this event open to all church members.

Counting On You

August 10

Worship Attendance	306
Sunday School Attendance	63



Sunday, August 17, 2008

- 8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
- Music: Offertory-Bill Moutray, baritone;
Marilyn Mertz, piano
- 10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir;
Bill Moutray, baritone;
Marilyn Ward, piano
- 9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Mary Jane Linton
- 9:00-Sunday School
- 3:00-*Ordination of Jason Butterick*,
Prairie Avenue Christian Church
- 4:30-Youth Sunday Night Special at
Pastor Robert's house

Tuesday (19)

- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
- 6:00-Baby Talk Pre-K, Disciple Room

Wednesday (20)

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

Thursday (21)

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

**Have You
Remembered
the Church
in Your Will?**

Serving Schedule—August 17, 2008

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Randy Brooks, Connie Bordner

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, 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, David Scott

10:00 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

Greeters:

8:00 - Jim, Pamela, Jarrett Bednar, Virginia Griffith

10:00 - Howard & Marguerite Cravens, Pamela Ferguson, Florence Bolin

Parish Nurse: Mary Jane Linton

Acolytes:

8:00 - Sam Funk

10:00 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

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 - Doug Soebbing

10:00 service only - Karen Baird

August 20 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Aug. 18 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Aug. 19 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Aug. 20 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Aug. 21 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Aug. 22 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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, Paula Gruen Preschool Teachers
 Wendy Jalley, Jennifer Van Dyke Preschool Teachers
 Kay Villarreal, Robin White Preschool Teachers
 Rudi Descaro Caretaker
 David Flanders Caretaker
 Dean Hadden Caretaker
 Charles Wallace Caretaker

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