



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

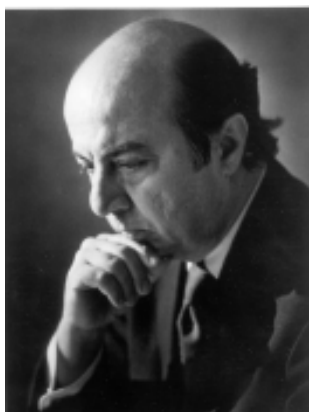
Decatur, Illinois, August 27, 2008

No. 35

## Piano Concert September 7

Steinway artist **Aldo Mancinelli** will present a concert of piano music in our church sanctuary on Sunday, September 7 at 4:00 pm. This concert is free and open to the public, thanks to a grant from the **Lyle & Minnie Campbell Memorial Fund**.

Mr. Mancinelli is an internationally acclaimed pianist and former artist-in-residence at Millikin University and is widely recognized for his energetic and powerful presentations of masterworks for the piano. Be sure to invite a friend to attend this concert with you.



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2008**

**WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00**

**The Pocket Guide  
to Christianity**

Text: Romans 12:9-18

Charles Watkins

## Last Sunday on Summer Schedule

This Sunday, August 31, will be the last Sunday on our summer schedule. We will go back to the fall schedule, with worship at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and church school classes at 9:30 a.m., on Picnic Sunday, September 7.



## All Church Picnic

Sunday, September 7, our congregation will mark the end of summer in an all church picnic on the west lawn of the church. All members and friends are invited to attend. Please mark your reservation on the Friendship Registration pad this Sunday or phone the church office to reserve your place (428-4336).

## Congregational Election

The Congregation of Central Christian Church will vote on the proposed slate of officers for next year at both worship services on Sunday, September 7. The slate was published in last week's issue of the *Central Visitor*. Your ballot will be inserted in the worship bulletin. You may check the box at the top to elect the slate, or you may mark the box beside each name to make your choices. All ballots must be turned in by the end of the church picnic after the 10:45 service.

## Giving Acknowledgments Coming Soon

Volunteers in the Contributions Office at Central are preparing grateful acknowledgements of all your gifts to the church during the first two-thirds of 2008. Early next week, all regular contributors will receive a statement of giving through August 31. Please check your statement for accuracy and be sure that you have given two-thirds of what you plan to give your church this year. The accumulated deficit in the general operating fund has been growing this summer, and you can help to reduce it or eliminate it by catching up on your giving plan.

## Welcome New Member



We welcome **David William Wagner**, who joined Central's membership on August 24. David lives at 506 Spittler Park Plaza in Mt. Zion. Phone, 433-2367. He works at ADM.

*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

**Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Central Youth will**  
**Not Meet**

**Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

Come Join the Circle  
Sunday School Kick-Off  
9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall  
Children & Youth  
Grades Pre-K - 12<sup>th</sup>  
Refreshments, Music, & Games!  
Learn About our  
New Sunday School Format

**Coming Soon!**  
**Begins September 7**

**Come Join the Circle**  
**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**  
Rotational Based Curriculum for  
grades Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup>

**Two by Two**  
**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**  
Parent & Toddler Class

**YDOC**  
**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**  
Contemporary Discussion  
for Adults 18-30 something.

## Children's Worship to Resume Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

The Christian Education Department will resume Children's Worship during the 10:45 a.m. service for children ages 5-11 yrs. old. This year we will be using the *Worship for Life* program from Logos Productions. Children will deepen their understanding of corporate and personal worship by focusing on the elements of worship. Volunteers are needed to help staff Children's Worship times. All volunteers working with children are required to participate in Central's Child Protection Screening. For more information, contact **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336 ext. 104.

## Robert's Reflections

Have you ever noticed that we are always beginning new programs and ministry opportunities in September? Maybe that has something to do with the years of study that is required for ministers to receive the ordination of the church. Perhaps we clergy types have a built-in routine of going back to school towards the end of each summer to learn something new, expand our understanding of the world, and deepen our insight into the mysteries of life. Or, maybe it is just too hard to start something during the summer months when so many are away for vacations, reunions, etc.

As we edge ever closer to the end of the summer months and families begin to settle back into the routines of the school calendar, I wish to encourage you to begin something new. Yes, I want to encourage you to come back to school, for some of us have never really left. Oh sure, I may not be a full-time, tuition paying student attending the halls of higher education right now, but I am still a student and I always will be. Each year I seek out opportunities to further my education, broaden my horizons and stay in touch with contemporary developments in Christian theology and Biblical studies. For me, this is vital as I continue to try and make sense of my faith in light of what I know about the world, and of the world in light of my faith.

Christian faith is in the midst of another great awakening, not entirely unlike those that have preceded, where new discoveries and fresh insights into scripture and tradition are helping many believers connect their faith in God with their life in this contemporary world. Some may wonder, what has stirred these new discoveries and new interpretations of the old, old story. The answer may have to do with the fact that Christianity has had more access to her history and to the ancient world from whence she came since about 1967 than ever before. Many of the discoveries that influence current Biblical scholarship are a result of the re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Of course, Israel was at war with nearly everyone in the Middle East from 1948-1966. So, since about 1967, just over forty years ago, we have been able to more freely explore the ancient world of the Bible through archaeology and other historical sciences. We have learned so much about ancient cultures, places and languages and much of that new information is beginning to filter into contemporary Christian education.

Unfortunately, many adult church members do not continue their faith development by engaging in Bible study or Sunday School or other educational opportunities. What more do we need than what we learned 10, 20, 30, or 40 or more years ago as kids in Sunday School? Isn't the sermon on Sunday enough of a lesson? My friends, over the years I have had so many people tell me that after attending a study they are stronger in their faith than ever before. I encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity to strengthen your faith this fall at Central.

Peace & Joy,  
**Robert**

## Financial Reports Available

Detailed reports on church finances are always available on the counter in the Friendship Center next to the church office. The monthly Treasurer's report to the Church Council on the General Operating Fund and various designated funds are placed there along with the monthly Board of Trustees financial report.

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of *Jerry Curtis* following his death on August 24.



## Study of Psalm 119 Begins September 7

The Disciples Sunday School Class invites you to join us in a study of Psalm 119 beginning on September 7<sup>th</sup>. This 20-week study will take a close look at the longest chapter in the Bible, using the book *Day by Day through the Psalms* by **Rev. C. William Nichols**. Using the book, we will examine the stanzas covered in Day 119 through Day 140, spending a week looking carefully at each stanza. If you already have the book, bring it with you to class. If you want to purchase a copy, they're available from the church office for \$15.

## Come Join the Circle

Children ages Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will begin a new Sunday School series in September. *Come Join the Circle* welcomes learners and leaders into the heart of the Bible's great stories through the rotational-model of learning, which is based on the Multiple Intelligences of Howard Gardner from Harvard Graduate School. Gardner asserts that each person has at least nine intelligences including linguistic, musical, logical or mathematical, spatial, kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist, and existentialist. *Come Join the Circle* uses a variety of learning centers that allows children the opportunity to explore a biblical story using their nine intelligences over several weeks. The centers include: Hands-On (arts, crafts, science), Making Music, Community Life (service learning), Show & Tell (drama and puppets), Food and People (Cooking and Culture), Fun & Games (physical movement), Time Out (prayer, reading & journaling) and Brain Teaser (puzzles and more).

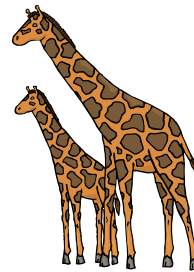
We will begin *Come Join the Circle* with a **Kick-Off at 9:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** and with centers on Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help lead the centers, which typically means leading a center twice every six weeks. If you are interested in helping with *Come Join the Circle*, please contact **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336 ext. 104.

## Two by Two for Infants, Toddlers & Parents

Imagine being able to learn about God's love with your little one! In this class, children from infant to Pre-K will experience lessons with a memorable Bible point and have fun with other children. There will be songs, story boards, Cuddles the puppet, and much more. The best part is that you can come too! Dad and child, Mom and baby, child and Grandparent, Aunt or Uncle with niece or nephew, are all possibilities for the "Two by Two" Sunday School Class. We know how precious your time is with your little one and we want you to be able to experience this class together. The "Two by Two" Sunday School Class will bring you and your child closer together while creating new church friends and learning about Jesus!

We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting new adventure! The "Two by Two" Sunday School Class will begin on September 14 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 190. We hope to see you there!

**Katie Powers**



## Sunday, August 31, 2008

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Mike Waltenberger  
9:00-Sunday School

**Monday (September 1) Labor Day**  
Church & Office Closed

## Tuesday (2)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
6:30-Beta Sigma Phi, 207

## Wednesday (3)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290  
12:00-Central Singers

## Thursday (4)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
10:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Room  
1:30-Decatur Jobs Council, Great Hall  
4:30-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Room  
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207  
7:00-Chancel Choir

Have you remembered  
the Church  
in your will?

## Counting On You

### August 24

Worship Attendance ..... 280  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 61

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**Serving Schedule—August 31, 2008**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:00 - Larry Otis, Brett Swallow

**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, 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 - Don & Brenda Tankersley, Dave & Rosalie Poland

10:00 - Jon & Jane French, Neil & Karen Baird

**Acolytes:**

8:00 - Brad Munos

10:00 - Rachel Ash

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

**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 - Ron Oliver

**September 3 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

**Hosts:**

Sept. 1 **Labor Day Observed**  
Church & Office Closed

Sept. 2 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Sept. 3 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith  
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Sept. 4 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson  
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Sept. 5 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 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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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522-2326

PERIODICAL  
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