



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, September 3, 2008

No. 36



Fall Schedule Begins Sunday

This Sunday, September 7, Central will return to the regular schedule with worship at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and church school classes at 9:30 a.m. Following the 10:45 service this

Sunday will be the **All Church Picnic** on the west lawn of the church. All members and friends are invited to attend. Call the church office today to reserve your place (428-4336).

Piano Concert This Sunday

Steinway artist **Aldo Mancinelli** will return to Central's sanctuary to present masterworks for the piano in concert at 4:00 p.m. this Sunday, September 7. A casual reception honoring the pianist is scheduled for the Friendship Center following the concert. Be sure to invite a friend to attend the concert with you!



One Church One School Volunteers Needed

At a recent meeting with school principal, Cynthia Houston, I was told that our efforts with H2O and mentor/tutors made a positive impact upon families at Hope Academy last year. Our relationship with Hope Academy is expanding for the 2008-2009 school year to include a partnership with the Decatur Area Education Coalition, which hopes to provide 40 volunteers to help with tutoring 4th & 5th grade students in math and reading. Volunteers will work one-on-one, two hours per week after school, with a curriculum that is being established by the school staff. Volunteers should attend an informational meeting on September 8th at 4 p.m. at Hope Academy, 955 N. Illinois.



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

"Come to the Table"
2008 Reconciliation Offering
September 7 & 14

CCC Bowling League to Begin

Sign up this week for the Central Christian Church Monday Night Mixed Bowling League. An organizational meeting will be held on Monday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Pla Mor Lanes. Our non-sanctioned league will play for 16 weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 15th. The cost is \$9 per night plus shoes if you need them. Our goal is fun and fellowship. You need not be an exemplary bowler to join us. The league is open to all high school youth and adults. Substitute bowlers will also be needed. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up the Friendship Center this Sunday, or call **Ron Oliver**.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

First Be Reconciled

Text: Matthew 5:21-26

Charles Watkins

Congregational Election

The Congregation of Central Christian Church will vote on the proposed slate of officers for next year at both worship services this Sunday, September 7. The slate was published two weeks ago in the *Central Visitor*. Your ballot will be inserted in your worship bulletin. 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.

Worship for Life to Begin September 7

The Christian Education Department will resume Children's Worship this Sunday 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. 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**.

Peace & Justice
Just Flicks
Spitfire Grill
showing in the Great Hall
Sunday, September 14
6:00 p.m.



Central Youth

Sunday, September 7th Come Join the Circle Sunday School Kick-Off

9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall
Children & Youth
Grades Pre-K - 12th
Refreshments, Music, & Games!
Learn About our
New Sunday School Format

Sunday, September 14th 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Central Youth Grades 6-12
We will meet at the church for
fun and food!

The Big Dig Grades 6-8 Begins Sunday, September 14th

9:30 a.m.
Room 290

Middle School youth will explore the depths of Christian faith, literally, by exploring the amazing discoveries of contemporary Biblical Archaeology. Using amazing video and multi-media presentation and the internet, along with solid study of scripture, we will dig into our faith. Using LEGOs we will build the stories of our faith and we will plan a trip for later in the school year to observe an archaeological find. Don't miss out on Central's Big Dig as we search for Jesus and other stories of our faith!

Charles's Column

I am a sucker for the Olympics. I never watch college or professional sports on TV, but the Olympics really get me. I once preached a sermon featuring Mary Lou Retton. I once preached a sermon featuring Dwight Stones. Expect to hear from me about Jason Lezack, though being no kind of athlete or fan, I mostly spare you from sports illustrations in my preaching (almost as defective as my illustrations from nature, field and stream). But the Olympics? They enthrall me, including the schlocky personal profiles of athletes and their families.

So how did I watch the Olympics in 2008? Well, I had just completed a project conceived last year in which Central would provide in each pew pocket a brochure detailing the various conveniences available to all those who worship God with us: large-print bulletins and hymnals, personal FM-radio hearing devices, clipboards for children, nursery for babies, drinking fountains, accessible restrooms, CD recordings of the service, and all the rest. I had written the text with helpful revisions by the Worship Department and the staff and enlisted **Tami Longcor** for graphics design and gotten the whole thing printed in full color and laminated. Tami did such a great job (thank her every time you see her!), and the finished project was just perfect in size and features to stand up above the hymnal in the pew rack. I was so proud, and it was perfect. Except for one thing.

The folder I imagined and which Tami designed and which the printers laminated and scored appropriately, would not lie flat. First I tried folding them and putting weight upon them on my study floor. No.

So I brought the problem to staff meeting. They told me I had to iron them. So on the first night of televised Olympics, I set up the ironing board in front of the TV. Here is the formula. First you have to fold the brochure with a sharp thumb crease down each side four times. Then the brochure goes face down under a linen napkin. I tried a towel, but that does not allow enough heat transfer. I tried just ironing the bare brochure and melted the plastic laminate. Not good. So I ironed every one (please disregard the occasional melted wrinkle. It doesn't really lie flat, but it's the best I can do, and then it goes into the paper bag. Next, and still warm, it goes into a stack of fifty under four volumes of the *New Interpreter's Bible*, the heaviest books close at hand in my study. I can do fifty in an hour (or four gold medals, whichever comes first). And then, at last each went into its pew pocket last week.

Admire them. Appreciate them. Thank Tami. But, please don't take them home; leave them for visitors to look at (they cost \$3 each plus hours of stewing over a hot ironing board and an intense TV.) And I hope they speak colorful volumes about the hospitality that Central Christian Church extends to all who worship God among us.

You are part of a welcoming church that is always looking for ways to make visitors feel at home. Welcome a stranger this Sunday! God bless you!

Charles Watkins

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. The "Two By Two" Sunday School Class begins September 14 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 190. We hope to see you there!

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Carol & Bruce Stoddard** and family following the August 27th death of Carol's father, *Donald A. Towers* of LaValle, Wisconsin.

Congratulations to **Amanda Littrell** and **James Werkheiser** on the birth of **Thomas James**, born August 30th. He is welcomed home by big brothers, **Zachary** and **Aidan**.....and to **Sally & Nick McLemore** following the September 2nd birth of their daughter, **Lauren Nicole**. Lauren is also welcomed home by her sister **Bella** and brother **Charlie**, proud grandparents, **Leo & Claudia Quigg** and great-grandparents, **C. William & Claudine Nichols**.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, September 10th!

Elderberries will meet on Wednesday, September 10th at noon in the Great Hall. This month's menu is Meatloaf, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, Crescent Rolls and Pumpkin Cake for just \$4 per person (truly the best deal in town). Following lunch, Jan Sickbert will share her experiences as a Hot Air Balloonist in a program we are calling, "*Up, Up and Away: Adventures in Hot Air Ballooning*". To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this 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, September 8th.

Living the Questions, Begins September 17th

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer humanity. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

Living the Questions is for both seekers and "church alumni" convinced that Christianity still has relevance in the 21st Century. *Living the Questions* will help people of faith explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. Join **Pastor Robert** for **LTQ I** on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 p.m.** in the Great Hall beginning **September 17th**. Please, RSVP on Sunday morning in the Friendship Center or by emailing rbushey@cccdisciples.org

Come Join the Circle – God Makes a World

Children ages 3 yrs. through 5th 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, such as the Creation Story, through the rotational-model of learning. *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. We will begin *Come Join the Circle* with a Kick-Off at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 7th and with Centers beginning on Sunday September 14th. Volunteers are needed to help lead the centers, which typically mean leading/helping with a center three times per quarter. If you are interested in helping with *Come Join the Circle*, please contact **Pastor Robert** at 428-4336.

YDOC Begins September 14th

Are you a Young Adult 18-30 something or so who has been looking for a place to discuss contemporary issues related to your faith? If so we have a place for you! Beginning on **Sunday, September 14th**, YDOC will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall for a time of sharing and discussion. Coffee, hot chocolate and tea will be available. Come, join YDOC and share with other young adults at Central.



Sunday, September 7, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Jessica Villarreal, flute
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship
12:00-All Church Picnic, West Lawn
4:00-Aldo Mancinelli Piano Concert, Sanctuary

Monday (8)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall

Tuesday (9)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study
12:00-Staff Lunch, Disciple Room
5:00-C.A.D.V. Meeting, Disciple Room

Wednesday (10)

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

Thursday (11)

10:00-Alanon, 212
6:30-Family Fun Night, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (13)

7:30-Elders' Breakfast, Disciple Room
4:00-Chapel Wedding, Ruth Ann Dixon & Don Galka
Reception following, Great Hall

Counting On You

August 31

Worship Attendance	261
Sunday School Attendance	62

Serving Schedule—September 7, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Claudia Quigg, Chris Fagin

Elders Serving Imboden Creek Living Center:

Keith Backes, Brett Swallow

Deacons:

8:15 - 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

10:45 - 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:

8:15 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos, Willie Birkhead

10:45 - Team 10 - Bill Blank, Capt., Marilyn Blank, Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Dick Cain, Sue Ann Cain

Greeters:

8:15 - Kevin & Mickie Wilmot, Bob & Chloe Hoaglin

10:45 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton, Bruce & Felicity Williams

Children's Worship: Teri Bushey

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Jean & Judson Pease, Carrie & Steve Funk, Maxine Koenig

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Karen Baird

September 10 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

Hosts:

Sept. 8 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Sept. 9 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Sept. 10 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Sept. 11 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Sept. 12 9:00-12:30 - Harold & Bess King
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

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.



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

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