



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, September 10, 2008

No. 37



Come to the Table: Become the Gift of Reconciliation

"We are the 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." ~Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President & 21st Century Vision Team

The table is a central image to our understanding of ourselves as Disciples. The table is the place where we are drawn together as invited guests. The table is a place of invitation, conversation, and transformation. The table is where we are called to become the gift of reconciliation!

Your gift to the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will empower others to come to the table and become the gift of reconciliation.

Healthy Congregations Workshop

Do you realize that besides attending and giving there are specific things you can do to keep your congregation healthy?

A Healthy Congregations Workshop for elders, deacons, and church council members is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 from 2:00–3:30 p.m. at Davis Memorial Christian Church in Taylorville, led by **Pastor Stacey Brohard** from Crestview, **Pastor Melissa Ebken** from Illiopolis, and host **Pastor Lonnie Southern** of Davis Memorial.

The workshop presents a new way of thinking about congregations and their leaders, seeing the congregation as a family system. For more detailed information, contact any of your pastors.

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 Sunday morning in the Friendship Center or by emailing rbushey@cccdisciples.org



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

You're Welcome

Text: Romans 14:1-12

Robert Bushey, Jr.

Officers Elected

Congratulations to the entire slate of officers who were elected by secret ballot last Sunday. One hundred sixty-two ballots were cast for the entire slate, and five ballots were cast for selected nominees. All nominees listed in *The Central Visitor* of August 20 were elected. Installation of officers is scheduled for December 28, 2008.

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.

Ladies Night Out - Tuesday, September 30th

Members and friends of Central are invited to join together for a delightful meal and night out on Tuesday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m. at Carlos O'Kelly's. Great food, laughter, fellowship and door prizes guaranteed! Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center!

Central Youth

Sunday, September 14th
4:30-6:00 p.m.
Central Youth
Grades 6-12

We will meet at the church for fun and food!

Sunday, September 21st
4:30-6 p.m.
Central Youth
Grades 6-12

We will be making Youth Group T-Shirts. Bring a light colored or white T-Shirt to be decorated. We will wear the shirts to the CCIW Regional Assembly November 14-16.

Sunday, September 28th
Cardboard Collection
after Both Services
Decatur Cluster Games &
Pizza Night
4:30-6 p.m.

Youth Grades 6-8 from Decatur area Disciples congregations will gather at Central. We will pull-out the game tables, Wii and more for fun and fellowship. Bring \$3.

Bring a friend and Your Pizza is FREE!

The Big Dig **Grades 6-8**

begins September 14
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. 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!

Robert's Reflections

A week or so ago as I was on my way back to the church to lead the last session of a course on Paul, Rome and the Kingdom of God, a commercial on the radio announced that all of my questions about the future would be answered in a new series based on the Book of Revelation to begin just after Labor Day. The commercial claimed that the Book of Revelation contains the answers to all of the world's problems, questions and inquiries. I then switched the radio station to hear a religious commentator propose that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God and as such provides simple, legalistic answers to every issue, every problem, and every inquiry that humanity has. I turned the radio off to finish my eight minute drive in silence.

As a serious student of scripture for more than two decades, I tend to look to the Bible as a source for questions rather than as a manual with all the perfect answers to my questions. Whenever we look to scripture for an easy answer to our difficult questions, we are committing an injustice upon the text, upon ourselves as people of faith and unfortunately, as too often has been the case, against others. Looking for easy answers in scripture has led crusaders to slaughter persons of other faiths and ethnicities. Seeking perfect answers in the Bible fueled the fires of Nazi death camps. Accepting easy answers from scriptures for life's complicated questions has subjugated persons to righteous discrimination and degradation based on their gender, race, religion, creed, health, sexual orientation and social economic status. History has proven time and again that the type of theology that claims to know what the future holds or to have the one and only truth, is dangerous at its best and deadly at its worst.

I was blessed to grow up in a home where my questions about faith and the ways of the world were always welcomed, celebrated and encouraged. The Truth was always worth the continuing journey of dialogue and discovery. I was challenged and encouraged to ask questions and to live within the space of ambiguity that those questions so often produced. I do not have all the answers to the big questions of life. Instead, I have more questions, more curiosity, more motivation to continue the conversation of faith seeking understanding. I admit that means I have to live with uncertainties. And, as scary as that may sound, I have found that when I let go of my need to know the Absolute Truth, I am truly in the presence of the Holy, wholly dependent upon the trust I have placed in God. Then I am able to listen, discern, and discover as the future becomes just another part of the conversation.

Next week, I will begin another series of study. "Living the Questions seeks not to provide easy answers, but to be a resource for people who are in the midst of a life-long conversation about the mysteries of faith and life." I hope you will consider joining me and 30 contemporary, religious voices in this conversation on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. I look forward to living the questions with you as we continue in ministry together in the weeks and months ahead.

Peace & Joy,
Robert

P.S. Pastor Robert is now on Facebook.com Check it out!

One Church One School Volunteers Needed

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.

Our H2O after school program is being modified to serve students in grades 2-3 in reading and 6-7 in math. Small groups led by Central tutors will work on skill building and positive encouragement. The programs plan to begin by the beginning of the Second Quarter, October 14th. Please, consider your role in this wonderful outreach ministry with our public schools. If you are interested in working with students at Hope Academy, please contact **Pastor Robert**.

CCC Bowling League Begins September 15th

Sign up this week for the Central Christian Church Monday Night Mixed Bowling League. Our non-sanctioned league will play for 16 weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 15th.

The cost is \$10 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**.



Come Join the Circle – God Makes a World

Children ages 3 yrs. through 5th grade will begin a new Sunday School series this Sunday, September 14th. *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. 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 ext. 104.

The "Two By Two" Sunday School Class, for children from infant to Pre-K, begins this Sunday, in Room 190. You are invited to come with your child: Dad and child, Mom and baby, child and Grandparent, Aunt or Uncle with niece or nephew, are all possibilities for this class.

Notes of Thanks Received

Thank you for the visits, and prayers during my time in the hospital.

Tina & Rick King

The family of **Betty Thomas** would like to thank the ministers for their visits and prayers and for the support and lovely sermon at Mom's funeral, and to Shirley Swarthout and her kitchen crew for the delicious dinner provided for us after the funeral.

Central Christian Church was Mom's home church for many years, and we're glad she found her way back to the church family that loved her just as much as she loved them and her Lord.



Sunday, September 14, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Ward, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship
4:30-Youth Group
6:00-Just Flicks, Great Hall

Monday (15)

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall
6:30-Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (16)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study

Wednesday (17)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Fellowship & Stewardship Depts., Disciple Room
6:15-Operations Dept., Volunteer Room
6:30-LTQ Class, Great Hall

Thursday (18)

10:00-Alanon, 212
5:45-Church Council, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (19)

6:00-Millikin Parents Day Concert, Sanctuary

Counting On You

September 7

Worship Attendance	290
Sunday School Attendance	70

Serving Schedule—September 14, 2008

Elders: 8:15 & 10:45 - Felicity Williams, Cindy Soebbing

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Kelly Swallow	Claudia Quigg
Gail Prince	Jan Dobbs
Charlotte Ballance	Brett Swallow
Jarrett Bednar	Keith Backes
Jane Davis	Kevin Miller
Andy Fulk	Rebecca Johnston
Sherri Hood	Mark Beal
Bob Keller	Shirley Swarouth
Karen Keller	Janet Lyman
Shelby Larrick	Mary Jane Oliver
	Alternate: Jo Carter

Deacons:

- 8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Larry Chapman, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Sherri Hood, Carol McClure, Debbie Seaberg, Max Sperry
- 10:45 - 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:

- 8:15 - Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar
- 10:45 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Katie Beal, Kaylene Beal, Sean Beal, Charlotte Lyon, Barb Tyler

Greeters:

- 8:15 - Clark & Mary Waldmier, Bruce & Liz Campbell
- 10:45 - Judson & Jean Pease, Ron & Mary Jane Oliver

Children's Worship: Betty Scott

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Bill & Mary Alice Rule

Acolytes:

- 8:15 - Brad Munos
- 10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

- 8:15 - Greg Carter
- 10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
 Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jan Patrick
 10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

September 17 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl, Shirlee Johnson

Hosts:

- Sept. 15 9:00-12:30 - Jody Featherstun
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
- Sept. 16 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
 12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
- Sept. 17 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
 12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
- Sept. 18 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
 12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
- Sept. 19 9:00-12:30 - Juanita Ballance
 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)
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 Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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