



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, September 17, 2008

No. 38



Look for the Rainbows

In your mail this week, you received a letter from Stewardship Chair **Kevin Otis** with some materials to help you think about how you might step forward and step up in your support of Christ's mission through our church. Please look at this information carefully and prayerfully.

Next week you will receive a Giving Card for 2009. Please complete and return the card as soon as you can to assure God that you are "on the bus," committed, and enlisted in the mission of Christ's church.

For six thousand years, God's people have "looked for the rainbows," and been assured of God's saving promises. Join that line of the faithful ones that always do their best for God.

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!

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** or **Shirley Swarthout**.

YDOC Has Begun

Join **Ed Acheson** & **Kevin Wilmot** and Central Young Adults 18-30 something or so for weekly discussions of contemporary issues related to your faith. **YDOC** meets 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 21, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Look for the Rainbows

Text: Galatians 5:22-26

Charles Watkins

Central on MyChurch.org

For those of you who use Facebook or MySpace on the internet, a new MyChurch page has been developed for Central. On the page you will find a calendar of events, announcements and members on Facebook and MySpace that you may connect with. All that is required to become a member of the Central community is a valid email account. Check it out and connect with Central friends near and far. You may find our page at www.MyChurch.org/cccdisciples

Still Room to Join

Living the Questions

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. Please, RSVP on Sunday morning in the Friendship Center or by emailing rbushey@cccdisciples.org



Central Youth

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

We 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!

Youth Sunday
Worship
October 26th
Mark Your Calendar!

Charles's Column

It was about 5:15 last Sunday morning when the rain started to fall in earnest. It was relentless, and there were no pauses, no slow-downs, and no let-up. When I walked through the church at 6:35 a.m. and asked **Dave Flanders**, "Is the ship taking on water any place?" he assured me that everything was secure. Three wet hours later, the choir room, Disciple room, Heritage Center, stage, and much of the Great Hall were under water. It wasn't as bad as the Great Mother's Day Flood of 2003, but almost.

So what about our \$134,500 drainage improvement project? It has worked really well ever since it was installed, but it is designed to move water away from our building and off our campus into Decatur's storm drainage system. And once that city system is completely full, our system has no place to send the water. We have two detention ponds (north parking lot and the boulevard on William Street) which are designed to hold water, release it slowly, and protect the neighbors' basements from flooding. But the slow release does not work when there is no place for the water to go.

Our worship attendance (and weekly offerings) were decimated by the storm which flooded not only the lower level of the church but the basements of many dear church members who would have been with us if they could.

Ancient Israel viewed the water as evil. They were desert people, and they were afraid of water (as I, another desert person still am). Water was disordered and chaotic. Israel was never a sea-faring nation. In imagining how it was on the day when God started to create the universe, they described how God's Spirit "brooded" over the waters of chaos. Later when God saw that all the thoughts of humanity were continually and exclusively evil, the LORD opened the windows of heaven and the reservoirs of the deep and washed the world away in a Great Flood, except for Noah and his family and the animals in his gopher wood box. The water which destroyed the earth was also the water which saved Noah, floating him above destruction to safety. When Israel fled Egyptian slavery, the water of the Sea of Reeds was an impassable barrier until Moses parted the waters and led them to safety as the waters closed in behind them and drowned Pharaoh's pursuing armies.

In Christianity the saving power of water is emphasized in the sacrament of holy baptism in which the new believer descends into the dangerous water (sometimes beside a terrified preacher), dies and is buried in Christ, and then rises up to live a new and redeemed life, risen with Christ in a resurrection like His.

When you receive this issue of the *Central Visitor*, it is supposed to be sunny. Still, remember all the times God has provided salvation through water, and remember the theme of our fall stewardship emphasis, "Look for the Rainbows."

Charles Watkins

Special Thanks to Central Flood Busters!

Several people worked at the church on Sunday to vacuum, mop and squeegee water that soaked the lower level of the building. Their efficient work allowed Just Flicks to take place in the Great Hall at 6 p.m. Thank you to **Connie Bordner, Mike, Gerri, Brittney, Brad & Bobby Munos, Dan Brintlinger, Dale Ford, Gary Rutherford, Mark & Sean Beal, Don & David Martin, Eric Harm, Daniel Hinze** and our **Caretakers** for helping cleanup Ike's remnant!

Dorcas Disciples Meet September 23

Dorcas Disciple Women will meet on Tuesday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m., in the Disciple Room at Central. Join us for "Learning the Sound of God's Voice – Opening Our Ears and Our Hearts." We will be joined by Sensei John Miyo Wylder, a lay Buddhist minister, who will share and demonstrate ways of listening in meditation to hear the voice of God amplified in our lives and to teach us about living faithfully in the spirit of God's Word. Come and learn how to tune in to God's voice and share in God's wisdom. As always, there is a sharing in food and fellowship and any interested women are welcome!

Ring With Chancel Bells

Chancel Bells will begin the fall season on Thursday September 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Choir room. If you are interested in joining this group please contact **Don Martin** for more information.

Friday September 19, 6:00 p.m.
Millikin Choirs will present
a Parents Day Concert in the Sanctuary.

Plan Now for Regional Assembly

You are invited to join your regional church family when it gathers in assembly November 14-16, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield under the theme *Facing Frontiers Faithfully*. Assembly speakers will include the **Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins**, the 7th General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) elected and installed at the 2005 General Assembly in Portland. The **Rev. Dr. Beth Dobyms**, Acting Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin will present her biennial report on the state of the church. The **Rev. Dr. Richard H. Lowery**, interim dean and vice-president of Lexington Theological Seminary and a scholar of the texts and traditions of ancient Israel will also address the assembly. Our own **Chancel Choir** will be joined by singers from throughout the Decatur Cluster to provide music for the Friday evening worship experience. There will also be opportunity to join an All Assembly Choir that will participate on Sunday morning. You are welcome to join both of these choirs. See **Don Martin** for more information.

You can register now for the assembly and for housing at either the Crowne Plaza Hotel or nearby at the Holiday Inn Express. The registration form is available on our region's website: www.cciwdisciples.org, or our church office can print one off for you. You may also look for registration forms in the Friendship Center. Register now so the date doesn't sneak up on you.

Kroger Cares Cards Update

To date, Central Kroger Cares Cards have been reloaded with nearly \$4,000. That means we will receive our first check soon for 5% of our sales to be given to our local mission outreach partners. The \$10 "reloadable" cards are still available in the church office for those who have not had a chance to purchase one.



Sunday, September 21, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Marilyn Mertz, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir;
Karen Driver, Soprano; Marilyn Ward, Piano
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Jane Latshaw
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
11:15-Children's Worship
4:30-Youth Group

Monday (22)

6:30-Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (23)

9:00-ChristCare Stitches, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
7:00-Dorcas Disciples, Disciple Room

Wednesday (24)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 290
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Stephen Ministers, 211
6:00-World Outreach, Volunteer Room
6:30-LTQ Class, Great Hall

Thursday (25)

10:00-Alanon, 212
6:00-Chancel Bells
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (26)

6:00-Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday (27)

8:30-12:00-University Place Christian
Church Elders' Retreat, Disciple Rm.
4:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Holly Holmer
& Chad McFadin

Counting On You

September 14

Worship Attendance 158
Sunday School Attendance 47

Serving Schedule—September 21, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Mary Jane Oliver, Shirley Swarthout

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 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Brenda Tankersley, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston, Betty Scott, Dave Scott

10:45 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

Greeters:

8:15 - Bev & Merle Chapman, Dean & Sue Simcox

10:45 - Randy, Shirley, Jessica Brooks, Dee Hill, Marylu Lyman

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Fellowship Coffee:

Jim, Cathy & Rachel Ash

Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Alexis Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

September 24 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Sept. 22 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*

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

Sept. 23 9:00-12:30 - Dee Hill

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

Sept. 24 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Sept. 25 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Sept. 26 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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
Jane Latshaw Parish Nurse Coordinator
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.



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

