



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, September 24, 2008

No. 39

## Living the Questions, Rescheduled to begin October 8<sup>th</sup>

*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 **October 8<sup>th</sup>**. Please, RSVP on Sunday morning in the Friendship Center or by emailing [rbushey@cccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org)



## Youth Cardboard Recycling Date Set!

This month Central Youth will collect cardboard near the church garage on **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**. Youth will be available to unload your vehicle after both morning worship services. Acceptable cardboard includes corrugated, uncoated, clean food containers, dry goods boxes, tissue boxes, etc. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept fast food containers such as cups or French fry boxes. Please, help us by emptying your boxes of foam packaging, tissue paper, or other contents. Boxes should be broken down whenever possible. Remember, the cardboard recycling is a service project and not a fundraiser for our youth.

## Ladies Night Out - Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

Members and friends of Central are invited to join together for a delightful meal and night out on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 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!

## 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*. 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](http://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.



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**God is at work in YOU**

Text: Philippians 2:1-13

Gretchen Barron

## Look for the Rainbows

Watch your mail this week for an important letter from Stewardship Chair Kevin Otis.

Enclosed with his letter will be a Giving Card for 2009 on which you register your plans to fund



all of Central’s mission and ministries. Please complete your card as soon as you can and mail it in the return envelope provided, put it in the offering plate on Sunday, or drop it off at the church office. Step up and show God how grateful you are for all the blessings you receive.

## 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](http://www.MyChurch.org/cccdisciples)

## Central Youth

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
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, our Wii and more for fun and fellowship. Bring \$3.

Bring a friend and Your Pizza is FREE!

### **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** **CROP Walk**

2 p.m. at Fairview Park  
Help raise awareness and money for hunger relief efforts in our community. You **MUST** pre-register with Pastor Robert before you are allowed to walk. All youth are encouraged to participate.

### **Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** **Back to the Future** 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Central Youth will join with youth from Decatur Area Disciples Churches and the Youth of First United Methodist Church for an exciting adventure back in time to the days of the Old Testament as we experience an exhibit from the Bade Museum of Biblical Archaeology, eat together and worship together.

**Youth Sunday  
Worship  
October 26<sup>th</sup>  
Sign up this Sunday  
to participate!**

## Gretchen's Gleanings

I have such exciting news to share with you this week! You may remember that last spring our Mission Allocation Task Force designated a gift of \$12,000 to be used as a 3-year scholarship for one woman to attend the Theological Community in Honduras. Our Mission Partner, Linda Hanson, wrote me last week to share the exciting news that our gift will actually allow TWO women to receive a full scholarship for their theological education. Because both these women live fairly close to the seminary, there won't be a need to provide expensive transportation as part of their scholarship. What wonderful stewardship of the resources that God has given us!

Linda writes: Let me tell you a little about them. Angelica is 41 and a single mother of two children. She was married twice and both times abandoned by her husband. Her children are Nahum, age 19, and also a student at the Theological Community, and Luz, age 7. Nahum also studies art in the University, so they have costs of internet, transportation and materials for his studies. Luz is a dynamo who likes to hang out in my office and play computer games, break things, and clean my white board of all my appointments (without even asking first!). Angelica works by cooking food and selling it in the street, either baked chickens or cheese. She makes about 1500 lempiras a month, \$79, on which she supports her family. Her house was donated to her by the Church of Christ, and she also has a little land on which she grows corn and beans to further support her family. She is the student we have with by far the most financial need, and helping her would also help Nahum to pay his costs to study.

Rosa is 30ish, married and the mother of two children. She has taken only a few classes from us, but is delighted to have the opportunity to study. She is a teacher at a small private Christian school and is hopeful that her studies will allow her to work more with counseling of elementary students. Rosa Lillian is a member of a Pentecostal church and when they found out that she was studying at the Theological Community, they placed her "under discipline". She must sit in the back pew, isn't allowed to teach, sing, or lead in any way. She steadfastly continues attending classes, and is a person in a short period of time (a little over 3 months) who is completely re-thinking her faith, is open to exciting new ways of hearing the Gospel, and is committed to continuing to study with us even if she is kicked out of her church. She has less economic need than Angélica, with her family making around 5,000 lempiras/month (\$265/month), but she is a student who shows tremendous drive and potential academically. I see her as the dean of the seminary when I leave!

We at Central Christian Church have the unique opportunity to develop continuing relationships with these special women during their next three years of theological study. As we know more, we will share these opportunities with you. One thing we can do right now is to pray for these women, for their families, for their studies and for the Theological Community in Honduras and the ministry of Linda and Bruce Hanson. Look for more information soon about a Regional Mission Trip to Honduras in 2009 and pray about your participation in this life-altering opportunity. Thank you, Central, for your stewardship, for your open hearts and minds, and for the vision that you have of being a church that shares God's love and promise of hope beyond our doorsteps on West William Street. Certainly, your generosity is being felt and celebrated around the world!

Blessings, *Gretchen*

## General Assembly 2009

Online registration is now available for the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis under the theme for the Healing of the Nations. This is the big biennial family reunion of our church for worship, mission, fellowship, learning opportunities and governance. Attending at least one General Assembly is a "must" for Disciples and it will never be any closer to us than it is in 2009. You can go to our denomination's web-site [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org) and fill out a registration form and even reserve your hotel room for next July. Sign up now while rooms closest to the convention center are still available.



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>. Please, consider your role in this wonderful outreach ministry with our public schools. If you are interested in working with students at Hope Academy, sign up in the Friendship Center or contact **Pastor Robert** or **Shirley Swarhout**.

## CIOP Predatory Lending Summit – October 4th

Central Christian Church is a member of Central Illinois Organizing Project (CIOP), an ecumenical, faith-based community organization. It encompasses 12 counties in Central Illinois and includes the communities of Springfield, Bloomington-Normal, Decatur, Champaign-Urbana, Danville, Peoria, and rural Logan County. Besides Central Christian, First Presbyterian, St. Peter's AME, and NAACP are members of CIOP in Decatur.

CIOP needs you to participate by attending a very important gathering of members from around Central Illinois on October 4 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Springfield. Plans are in place to car-pool from Decatur to Springfield on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. Visit [www.ciop.org](http://www.ciop.org) for more details about the event. Please join us. A sign-up sheet is available in the Friendship Center.

## Counting On You

### September 21

Worship Attendance ..... 301  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 78



## Sunday, September 28, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Central Singers  
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-Cluster Youth Gathering, Great Hall

## Monday (29)

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

## Tuesday (30)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
6:00-Ladies Night Out, Carlos O'Kelly's

## Wednesday (October 1)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240  
12:00-Central Singers  
6:00-Unbinding the Gospel Planning Meeting, Disciple Room

## Thursday (2)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
10:15-1:15-HSAC Meeting, Disciple Rm.  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Saturday (4)

8:00-Hunger Relief Task Force, Great Hall Kitchen  
11:00-Hunger Relief Serving Team, Good Samaritan Inn

## Do you like to work with your hands & heart to help others?

Then you are **needed** in ChristCare Stitchers on Tuesdays at 9:00. Stitching is **not** required but willing hands can do many things to make blankets for children in Project Linus. As Mary Alice Rule says, "*many hands make the tasks fun and easy to do.*" Come and look us over and discover how your hands and heart can help children.

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## Serving Schedule—September 28, 2008

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Kevin Miller, Keith Backes

### Elders Serving Hospital Communion:

**St. Mary's Hospital:** Keith Backes

**Decatur Memorial:** Cindy Soebbing

### 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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski

10:45 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Capt., Pamela Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

### Greeters:

8:15 - Betty Cox, Betty Ann Roe, Ed & Joy Adams

10:45 - Dale & Judy Ford, Steve & Carrie Funk

### Children's Worship:

Teri Bushey

### Fellowship Coffee Hosts:

Melinda, Scott, Mallory, Spencer  
Hawbaker

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Andrew Otis

### 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 - John Flanders  
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

### October 1 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

### Hosts:

Sept. 29 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Sept. 30 9:00-12:30 - Louise Boline  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 1 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 2 9:00-12:30 - Shirlee Johnson  
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

Oct. 3 9:00-12:30 - Florence Bolin  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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  
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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