



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, October 15, 2008

No. 42



Decatur Cluster Fall Festival Concert

You are invited to join your friends from area Disciples churches for a program of inspirational music. This event will take place on **Sunday, October 26, 4:00 p.m.** at **Prairie Avenue Christian Church**. Representatives from several churches will provide music in a variety of styles. Following the singing there will be time to fellowship over food. For more information contact **Don Martin**.

Traveling Archaeology Exhibit Visits Central

Central's Junior High Sunday School class invites you to step back in history to the time of the Patriarchs and the United Kingdom of Ancient Israel. Nearly 30 artifacts, some 3000-5000 years old, from the Bade Museum of Biblical Archaeology at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California will be on display in the Church Parlor on **Sunday, October 26** at 9:30 a.m. (during Sunday School) and after the 10:45a.m service. The exhibit includes artifacts discovered in archaeological digs of a buried Hebrew town eight miles north of Jerusalem by Dr. William F. Bade in the late 1920's and mid 1930's. The traveling exhibit was borrowed as part of The Big Dig Sunday School course for grades 6-8 exploring Biblical Archaeology. During the dig we have discovered the story of the lost Ark of the Covenant and in November we will begin our pursuit of the Holy Grail.

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now!

Yes, Fall is only beginning but now is the time to order your Holiday Poinsettias! We are selling them as a fund raiser for future mission trips. The Poinsettias are grown at a local greenhouse. Each plant is in a 6 1/2" pot with a decorative wrap and beautiful handmade, wired bow. Plants are available in red, pink, white, peppermint (peach) and marble (pink center with white on outside of leaves) and sell for \$12.50 each. Order forms are now available in the Friendship Center. Orders will be accepted through October 19th and payment must accompany the order. Order one or several for yourself or others (they make great gifts) but don't miss this opportunity to pre-purchase beautiful holiday plants and support future mission trips. The plants will be available for pick-up the first Sunday of December. For more information, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.

Come Hear the Iowa State and Millikin University Choirs at Central

Iowa State and Millikin University Choirs will combine forces to present an evening of wonderful music. The event is planned for **Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary**. Plan to come and invite your friends.

Housing is needed for some Iowa State singers. If you could house two or more students, give them breakfast and return them to the church, please contact the office, 428-4336 or sign up in the Friendship Center. For more information contact **Don Martin**.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

To Caesar and to God

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

Charles Watkins

Healthy Congregations

Three congregations in the Decatur cluster of Disciples congregations are sponsoring a workshop on Healthy Congregations this Sunday, October 19 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Davis Memorial Christian Church in Taylorville. Learn how you personally as part of a family system can affect and improve the health of your congregation.

Voters at the Regional Assembly

At the regional assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) November 14-16 in Springfield, our congregation is entitled to six voting representatives and as many non-voting representatives as wish to attend. Assembly registration forms are available online and in the Friendship Center. If you are interested in being a voting representative, please notify the church office of your plans to attend.





Central Youth

Sunday, October 19th
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 Bader Museum of Biblical Archaeology, eat together and worship together.

Youth Sunday Worship
October 26th
Enough is Enough!
Matthew 6: 24-33

Central Youth grades 6-12 will lead our morning worship services. If you have not signed up for a part, please contact **Pastor Robert** this week!

Coming Soon!
Sunday, November 2nd
Indoor Golf Tournament
4:30p.m. - 6:00p.m.

Sunday, November 23rd
Community Thanksgiving
Basket Project
We will help assemble 3,600 food baskets for Decatur Area families in need.

Charles's Column

Once upon a time, a congregation of Christians held its annual stewardship emphasis to obtain commitments for the support of its mission and ministries for the year ahead. During the campaign, the economy of the country began teetering near collapse with the largest bank failure in American history, the disappearance of mighty investment houses on Wall Street, and an unprecedented plunge in the stock market. Credit markets in this country and abroad froze as financial institutions no longer trust one another. Already one can find headlines about the "Panic of 2008," and none of us can remember any time in our lives when the economic outlook was so bleak.

And did all this scary bad news have an effect on our congregation's stewardship campaign? Indeed it did, and quite profoundly. By the time the effort was scheduled to conclude, our church had fewer giving cards and fewer dollars committed than at any time this century. Just how we can craft a realistic budget plan for 2009 is not clear. There is still time, however, for others in the congregation to step forward in faith and change the outlook for our church.

Perhaps we need to remember the atmosphere in which our beautiful church building was conceived. In the early 1940s our country was engaged in a horrific world war, and the war was not going well for the Allies. Commodities were being rationed, the Great Depression was part of everyone's recent memory, and fear and uncertainty abounded. But in those dark days, Central Christian Church started to plan and to raise funds for a new building. It took ten years for the plan to be realized in construction and dedication of our present house of worship.

It is an important part of the tradition of this congregation that we put our faith in God and let our sacred hope allay our fear. We are engaged in the most important enterprise on earth, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, the amazing grace of God, and the hope of eternal salvation. It is not part of our tradition to let difficult circumstances defeat our faith, hope, love, and generosity.

How the story of the congregation who held a stewardship campaign at the worst possible time of all turns out is still in our hands. How strong is our faith? How deep is our gratitude to God? How much do we love our church? Each of us still has time to answer those questions.

Charles Watkins

Spirit of Christmas Workshop Crews

Several folks signed up in August to help with our Spirit of Christmas outreach ministry for 2008. Through the generosity of our congregation we plan to help between 90-100 people this Christmas. We will be partnering with Webster Cantrell Hall, Decatur Township and the Phoenix Alternative School, which is housed on our campus, for teen moms. During November and December we plan to have four crews organized to help shop for gifts, sort gifts, wrap gifts and deliver the gifts. Over the next few weeks we hope to add more names of persons ready to become a member of one or more of our workshop crews. A sign up sheet is available in the Friendship Center. The Christian Action and Community Service Department will host an organizational *Spirit of Christmas Party* on Wednesday, October 29th at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall for all crew members. Be a part of the Spirit of Christmas at Central this year!

You are Invited!
Betty Jean Dolan's 90th Birthday Celebration
Saturday, October 25th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
at Tanglewood Village
1293 S. 34th Street
 No gifts please.

Decatur Green Coop

You can buy earth-friendly products at wholesale prices through the Buy Green Coop, Decatur's newest cooperative buying venture. This can be your local source of cleaning supplies and paper products. Started by our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, the Buy Green Coop is now accepting memberships from the community.

Here's how it works: You pay a \$20 annual membership fee. You order your goods and pay in advance. Then you pick up your order at the distribution point at Natural Edge, 2575 South Mt. Zion Rd. (Route 121). Members are also expected to volunteer. The Peace & Justice Task Force will be receiving memberships and distributing order forms this Sunday in the Friendship Center. These forms are also available from **Pastor Robert** or in the church office.

Harvest Walk for Good Samaritan Inn

Join us at 3 p.m., on Sunday October 26th at Fairview Park (Big Pavilion) for a walk to support the Good Samaritan Inn. No prizes, no competition, just a brisk, fun walk and the great feeling that comes with helping those that need assistance. After the walk, join us for delicious cider, pumpkin breads and a silent auction featuring specially designed fall and Halloween decorations. Parking is available in the park until 2:45 p.m. This event will occur rain or shine. Register in the Friendship Center this Sunday!

Counting On You

October 12

Worship Attendance214
 Sunday School Attendance 72

During the first three quarters of 2008, Central received gifts for the General Operating Fund of \$472,066 which is \$48,958 below the giving goal for the first three quarters of this year.

Expenses to operate the church the first three quarters of 2008 were \$588,277 which is \$1,177 below the budgeted amount.

All outreach commitments through September both locally and globally were paid in full.

Gifts to the *Preserving Our Past...Securing Our Future* capital campaign during the first three quarters were \$93,681.

Your regular and generous giving keeps Central going! We're counting on you! Be sure to do your best for your church, so that your church can do its best for God.

Detailed monthly financial reports for the congregation and for the Board of Trustees are always available on the counter by the church office in the Friendship Center along with minutes of the last church council meeting. You can always pick up copies and see exactly where the congregation stands financially.



Sunday, October 19, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
 Music: Offertory-Central Singers;
 Marilyn Ward, Piano
 8:15 Anthem-Central Singers
 10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; 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
 4:30-6:30-Cluster & Ecumenical Youth
 Gathering, Great Hall

Monday (20)

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

Tuesday (21)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
 10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
 Senior Pastor's Study
 11:30-Ecumenical Clergy, Disciple Room
 5:30-Unbinding the Gospel Planning
 Meeting, Disciple Room

Wednesday (22)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
 12:00-Central Singers
 5:30-Stephen Ministers, 211
 6:30-LTQ Class, Great Hall

Thursday (23)

8:00-12:00-Macon Co. Health Dept. Flu
 Vaccinations, Disciple Room
 10:00-Alanon, 212
 6:00-Chancel Bells
 7:00-Chancel Choir

Macon Co. Health Dept.
Flu Shot Clinic
Disciple Room at Central
Thursday, October 23rd
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Serving Schedule—October 19, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Janet Lyman, Becky Johnston

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 Swarouth, Janet Thicksten, Larry Thicksten, Lawrence Thicksten, Sally Thicksten, Kathy Thornton

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, Barbara Tyler

Greeters:

8:15 - Mary Kincaid, Frances Heiserman, Bill & Mary Alice Rule

10:45 - Keith & Jeannie Backes, Carol & Bob Bischoff

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Randy, Shirley & Jessica Brooks

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Acolytes:

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Carroll & Doris Little, Jan Patrick, Hazel Perry

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Doug Soebbing

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

October 22 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Oct. 20 9:00-12:30 - Rosie Doore

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

Oct. 21 9:00-12:30 - Dee Hill

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

Oct. 22 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Oct. 23 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Oct. 24 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
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.



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

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

