



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXI

Decatur, Illinois, October 22, 2008

No. 43

Join the Final Fifty

Central needs fifty more members or friends to indicate plans to support the ministries of our church before next Sunday. The congregation cannot move forward in mission next year with fewer giving cards than the church received last year. You know your own plans for supporting your church, but unless you let the church know about your intent, vital ministries will have to be reduced. Before the budget is prepared in early November, please turn in your Giving Card for 2009. What you decide really matters. Join the Final Fifty!



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 **this Sunday, 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 this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. (during Sunday School) and after the 10:45 a.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.

Dorcas Disciples Meet October 28

The women of Dorcas Disciples would like to invite any interested women to join us for our monthly meeting Tuesday, October 28th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Disciple Room. **Charles Watkins** will enlighten us on how the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is "Compelled by God's Voice – Spirits Moved and Lives Moving." He will touch on ways the larger church has responded to scripture to change direction since the last 2007 General Assembly in San Antonio. Discover how God calls out to people, ordinary people, to be part of the unfolding of God's love in the world. Discover how God calls out to Central. We will be collecting items for OASIS, and plan for the November Soup Days. How do you listen for God's call in your life?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2008

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Enough is Enough!

Text: Matthew 6:25-33

Central Youth

Iowa State & Millikin University Choirs Perform 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**.



Harvest Walk for Good Samaritan Inn

Join us at 3 p.m., this Sunday 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!



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.

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!

Robert's Reflections

Much has been said during the current political campaigns about reforms and innovations for our nation's energy policy and the creation of "green jobs" as we look toward the completion of the first decade of the 21st Century. Candidates from most every party have used the current popularity of eco-friendly attitudes and energy independence as part of their platforms. With fuel prices higher than ever before, we face higher transportation costs, higher utility costs, and higher food costs just to name a few. The economy has surely driven this debate for decades, and yet preservation has also played a significant role in the dialogue about our responsibility in caring for creation.

While the debate continues over the role that humanity has in the health of our environment, as people of faith our role as stewards of all that God has created is clear and profound. Preserving and protecting the earth for future generations is a core belief for many "green" thinking folks who understand themselves as temporary residents among the many creatures of God's amazing creation. The value, of being a steward of God's good earth, is expressed through organizations such as the Buy Green Coop of Decatur & Macon County. Using environmentally friendly products in our households and offices is one way for people of faith to care for that which God has entrusted to us, the earth.

Preservation has been on my mind lately as I have been entrusted with the care of a unique collection of artifacts from ancient Israel. Most of what we do to care for the natural world, or preserve the earth for the future, has no tangible results or outcomes. We recycle, we conserve our energy consumption, we protect wildlife and often we do not see the end results of our work, or know the joy of future generations (our grandchildren's grandchildren) who will likely benefit from our efforts.

The artifacts from a buried ancient Hebrew town about eight miles north of Jerusalem remind me of the importance of preserving for the future. With the delicate care of the archaeologists who dug them out of the ground in the 1920's and 1930's and the responsible care of the Bade Museum of Biblical Archaeology, we are given an incredible opportunity to visit the ancient culture about whom and from whom many of the stories of our faith originated. The traveling exhibit of 19 artifacts shares the story of a heavily fortified town with ancient weaponry, primitive cooking, family worship and ancient energy use. Care for the historical significance and insight the artifacts represent and stewardship of the story from the ancestors of our faith have combined to allow us, a generation of the future, to enjoy the tangible benefits of preservation. I hope you will be with us in worship this Youth Sunday and that you will have an opportunity to stop by the display in the parlor.

Peace & Joy, **Robert**

Cardboard Recycling Concludes This Sunday

The Youth Cardboard Recycling project has always been about raising awareness of the opportunity for members to reduce the amount of refuse entering our landfills. October 26th, will be our last collection date for cardboard recycling at Central. We encourage you to continue to recycle your cardboard by taking it to Midwest Fiber located at 1902 N Water Street in Decatur, as we did. A large green bin just inside the gate is available for your cardboard. Thank you for caring for the earth and for supporting our project!

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Scott & Melinda Hawbaker** and family following the October 19th death of Scott's grandmother, *L. Jeanette Parker* of Monticello.

Congratulations to **Kyle & Elizabeth Floyd** on the October 19th birth of their daughter, **Leila Grace**.



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.

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.



In Memoriam

During the third quarter of 2008 Central received special gifts honoring the memories of **Dallas Beyer, Hugh & Berneice Beyer, D. Jane Bissey, Bill Charlton, Jerry E. Curtis, Walter "Bud" Grant, Francis Holbert, Lyle & Thelma Huff, Earle Ray, Lucille Ray, M. Travis Stanley, Charlie Stewart, Betty J. Thomas, Ray Tyler, Robert E. Ward, and Galen Woods.**

We are grateful for the lives of these whose memories are honored at Central and for those who have given memorial funds honoring them. Memorial gifts to Central in the first three quarters of 2008 total \$18,177.

Gifts to the church honoring the memories of friends and family members are always welcome and appropriate. Each gift is recorded at the church and acknowledged to the family. Memorial gifts are used for special needs approved by the Church Council and in consultation with family members.



Sunday, October 26, 2008

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Liz Campbell
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:30-Sunday School
9:30-YDOC Class, Room 211
11:15-Children's Worship, Room 240
3:00-Harvest Walk, Fairview Park
4:00-Decatur Cluster Fall Festival
Concert, Prairie Avenue Christian Church

Monday (27)

6:30-Bowling, PlaMor Lanes

Tuesday (28)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Room 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
6:00-Dorcas Disciples, Disciple Room
6:30-Preschool Board, Room 280
7:00-Iowa State & Millikin University
Choirs Concert, Sanctuary

Wednesday (29)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, Room 240
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Spirit of Christmas Crew Party,
Great Hall
6:30-LTQ Class, Great Hall

Thursday (30)

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

Portable Communion Set Missing

One of the portable communion sets is missing. Elders/Deacons, please check your cars and homes to see if it might be found.

Thank you, *Chloe Hoaglin*

Counting On You

October 19

Worship Attendance 307
Sunday School Attendance 81

Serving Schedule—October 26, 2008

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Central Youth

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 & 10:45 - Central Youth

Greeters:

8:15 - Roe Skidmore, Ann Harshman, Darla & Norm Lienemann

10:45 - Janet & Larry Thicksten, Ron & Jan Dobbs

Parish Nurse: Liz Campbell

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Dean & Janet Gray

Acolytes:

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Austin Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Carroll & Doris Little, Jan Patrick, Hazel Perry

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Kevin Wilmot

10:45 service only - Brett Swallow

October 29 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Shirlee Johnson

Hosts:

Oct. 27 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 28 9:00-12:30 - Dee Hill
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 29 9:00-12:30 - Nancy Taylor
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 30 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 31 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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 Coordinators
Katie Beal Childcare Coordinator
Joanne Frady, Sean Beal Childcare Providers
Hannah Fitch & Lindsey Compton 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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