



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, May 6, 2009

No. 18

Young Adults and Families – Zoo and Cookout on May 16th!

All Young Families and Young Adults (we'll let you decide if you qualify) are invited for a fun afternoon at the Scovill Zoo followed by a cookout on Saturday, May 16th. We'll meet in the Zoo Parking Lot at 3 p.m. and spend a couple of hours walking and talking with the animals before we gather at the picnic area for a Cookout/Potluck. **Dave Hanson** will be our Grillmeister. Cost of admission (group rate) is \$1.75 per person (child or adult). Train and carousel rides are \$1.25 each. Bring your own meat to grill and a potluck dish or item to share, as well as your own table service and beverage. Sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday if you're interested in going. If you don't want to go to the zoo, just join us for the cookout! For more information, speak with **Don Martin** or **Pastor Gretchen**.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out is set for Tuesday, May 12th at 6 p.m. at O'Charley's. Members and friends of Central are invited to join together for a fun evening of fun, laughter, fellowship and great food. Invite a friend to join you and sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

Suggestions Please!

The Nominating Committee for 2009 has been appointed by the President of Congregation, the Chair of the Elders and the Chair of the Diaconate. Serving this year will be **Joy Adams '10**, **Sandra Garver '09**, **Mike Holbrook '10**, **Doug Soebbing '10**, **Steve Swarthout '09**, **Mary Jane Oliver**, ex-officio, and **Charles Watkins**, ex-officio.

The Nominating Committee would appreciate your suggestions as they consider persons to serve as elders, deacons and trustee for new terms beginning on January 1, 2010 and any who should be honored with permanent emeritus office. A suggestion form was printed in last Sunday's bulletin and will appear again this Sunday. In addition, you can pick up a form in the church office any time this week.

The Nominating Committee always takes congregational suggestions seriously as it develops a slate of nominees to be presented to you for election this fall. Please suggest the names of those whom you think would lead us and serve us well.

Fellowship Sunday Meal is May 17

It's time to sign up for "Fellowship Sunday" – a meal and fellowship time in the Great Hall at noon on May 17. This month we will emphasize education. To make your reservation, please mark an "F" beside your name in the friendship registration pad this Sunday, or call the church office, 428-4336.

Throughout 2009 Central will celebrate "Fellowship Sunday" on the third Sunday each month. The Fellowship Department will provide a meal and an opportunity for fellowship with your Central friends and family. Mark your calendar now, and plan on attending Fellowship Sunday each month!

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45
Desperation
Text: Genesis 21:8-21
Charles Watkins

Singing Quakers to Sing at Central

Singing Quakers from Friends University, in Wichita, Kansas, will be in concert at Central on **Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m.** This is a select vocal organization of 79 voices with a reputation for high musical quality. They tour annually and have performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City. **Organist Anna Jeter** will also be featured.

This group of 79 singers will need places to stay, and the need for host families is urgent. **Please consider hosting two or more students for the night.** Besides a bed, they will need breakfast in the morning and a sack lunch for the road. These times of interaction with students are very rewarding. For more info contact **Don Martin**.

Hunger Relief Team Needs You

The Hunger Relief Team is scheduled to serve at Good Samaritan Inn on Saturday, May 16th. Your help is needed. Volunteers are needed to help prepare meals in our kitchen from 8 a.m.–11 a.m. and to help serve meals at the inn from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. You may volunteer by calling the church office or sign up in the Friendship Center this Sunday.



Youth Column

Central Youth Sunday, May 10th

All Youth are encouraged to help serve at the Mother's Day Breakfast from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Great Hall and are welcome to attend the showing of Autism the Musical at First Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 17th 2-5 p.m. Miracle Day Project

Central Youth will join Blue Mound Youth to distribute flyers in the neighborhood adjacent to Prairie Avenue Christian Church where Miracle Day 2009 will take place in Decatur. We will be walking and handing out information about the many projects we hope to accomplish on August 29th.

Camp Deadlines Nearing!

Shalom - High School
June 8-13th - **Now \$200**

Koinonia - Jr. & Middle School
June 22-27

Before May 18th \$125
8th Grade Conference -
Finished 8th Grade
June 14-20

Before May 12th \$125
ADDaM Camp - High School
June 21-28

Before May 18th \$125
Genesis Camp
Finished 2nd - 3rd Grades
July 2-4

Before May 25th \$75
More info at
www.cciwdisciples.org

Senior High Heifer Ranch Trip Perryville, AK June 13-20, 2009

High School Youth will travel to the Heifer International Livestock and Learning Center in Arkansas. Estimated cost \$100. If you have not received a registration form contact **Pastor Robert**. Forms are due in the office as soon as possible.

Charles's Column

What does a person have to do to become a member of Central Christian Church?

All that is required of any person to join our congregation is to affirm that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, to accept Him as Lord and Savior, and to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

What if a person has already been baptized?

Believing that the Church of Jesus Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one, we recognize the baptism by water of every other Christian communion as valid. There is one baptism, and no re-baptism is required or allowed, even if that baptism has been administered in infancy, by sprinkling or pouring or some method other than immersion.

So if a person is a baptized believer but is not currently affiliated with any other congregation, how is her membership accepted by Central?

Central accepts the confession of faith and the prior baptism upon the statement of the person desiring membership.

Does a person have to walk down the aisle to the front of the church to join?

No, if a person is uncomfortable coming to the front of the church during the Hymn of Dedication following the sermon, the pastors can come to the pew where the person desiring membership is sitting and receive the affirmation of faith (that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Lord and Savior) there. It is also possible to have the affirmation simply announced by the pastors without any public act. In one case, a transfer of membership was accepted over the telephone!

If a person is a member of another congregation, does that person have to notify the other congregation of the transfer to Central?

No, Central's office sends a letter to the sister congregation asking that the member be dismissed to our care and requesting a letter of transfer of membership. All the "paper work" is handled by the church office.

After a person joins Central, what is expected?

Each member of Central is expected to attend public worship regularly, to give generously in support of the church's mission of witness and service, to participate actively in the life of the congregation, and to live a life "worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

If a person does all that, what does one get?

The rewards for faithful discipleship are "out of this world."

What if I'm already a member of Central and somebody asks me all these questions?

You might save this column and hand it to a friend who is curious about membership in your church.

Charles Watkins

Scholarship Application Deadline May 24th

Applications for the Kirby, Schilling and Traylor Scholarships are available at the church office and are due back by May 24th. The awards are based primarily upon academic achievement and financial need, however participation in church, school and community activities are considered, as well.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Richard Hundley** and family following the May 2nd death of his wife, **Norma Hundley**.

Autism the Musical – Sunday, May 10th

This inspiring documentary follows the trials and triumphs of a group of autistic children who attempt to create and perform their own musical. *Autism the Musical* begins with the sobering statistic that, a decade ago, doctors diagnosed autism in only one child in 10,000, but today one in 166 children is affected by the disorder. But things look up from there. Though each child in the film struggles with his or her individual challenges, this documentary provides an ultimately hopeful picture. Inspired by her autistic son's response to creative play, single mother Elaine Hall organizes the Miracle Project, which unites autistic children and their families in the creation of a musical. This is the final film for our 2008-2009 Just Flicks Season and will be shown at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Light refreshments will be served and a brief discussion led by **Pastor Robert**.

Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, May 13th!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal and program and delightful fellowship together on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, May 13th at noon in the Great Hall. Our Guest Cook this month is **Paula Hovey** who will be cooking up lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Cost for the meal is just \$4 per person (the best deal in town). Following lunch, **Christina Whitford** of Faith in Action of Macon County will be with us to tell us more about this important organization which provides assistance to Seniors to help them maintain their independence. To sign up, you will need to call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this coming Sunday. If you think you would like to come but are not yet sure, please go ahead and make a reservation. We would rather have food left over than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, May 11th. Don't delay, reserve your place today!

Dinner for Eight

The Shepherding Department invites you to sign you up for Dinner – Dinners for Eight! The dinners provide a unique opportunity for Central members and friends to get to know each other in a relaxed, informal atmosphere, usually in the host's home. Sign ups conclude this Sunday. Once you've signed up, you will receive a letter which tells you which group you are assigned to and who will act as your host. Members of each group decide the best date and time to meet and who will bring which dinner items. The groups are asked to meet one time for dinner this summer. For more information, contact **Pastor Gretchen**. Sign up this Sunday for Dinner for Eight.

Note of Thanks Received

I would like to thank those who prayed for my friend **Dorothy Porter**, who has had cancer for 3 years. She went to Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis Wednesday morning and after a 4-5 hour surgery, the doctor had removed her cancer. I spoke to her and she is happy that she is now cancer free.

-**Andrew J. Wilson, III**



Sunday, May 10, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-John Baird, Piano
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.
9:15-Mothers Day Breakfast, Great Hall
9:30-Sunday School

Monday (11)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn
6:00-LTQ, 280
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall

Tuesday (12)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
5:00-C.A.D.V., Disciple Room
5:15-Nominating Committee, Parlor
6:00-Ladies Night Out, O'Charley's

Wednesday (13)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Peace & Justice, 280
6:00-Unbinding Task Force, Parlor
6:15-Unbinding Group, Parlor
7:00-*Singing Quakers Concert*,
Sanctuary

Thursday (14)

10:00-Alanon, 212
6:00-Chancel Bells
6:30-Family Fun Night, Disciple Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (16)

8:00-11:00-Hunger Relief Task Force,
Great Hall Kitchen
11:00-Hunger Relief Serving Team,
Good Samaritan Inn
2:00-Young Adults & Families,
Scovill Zoo & Cookout

Counting On You

May 3

Worship Attendance 274
Sunday School Attendance 67

Serving Schedule—May 10, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Robert Garrett, Cindy Soebbing

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Richard Ward
Cathy Ash
Jim Ash
Steve Swarthout
Azalee Berner
Warren Berner
Dale Ford
Judy Ford
Erik Harm
Christine Lyman-Harm

Elders

Bruce Campbell
Mary Jane Oliver
Claudia Quigg
Kevin Miller
Lawrence Thicksten
Jane Watkins
Lois Whitaker
Connie Bordner
Randy Brooks
Dick Cain

Deacons:

8:15 - Team 3 - Mike Holbrook, Capt., Charlotte Ballance, Jarrett Bednar, Greg Carter, Jo Carter, Megan Carter, Jane Davis, Andy Fulk, Theresa Fulk, Christy Hanson, Dave Hanson, Sherri Hood, Brittney Munos, Larry Otis, Debbie Seaberg, Connie Shields, Max Sperry

10:45 - Team 4 - Kevin Otis, Capt., Ed Acheson, Lucy Acheson, Jeannie Backes, Louise Boline, Shirley Brooks, Sue Ann Cain, Claudia Curry, Debbie Foster, Larry Foster, Jon French, Melinda Hawbaker, Scott Hawbaker, Bob Linton, David Miller, Katie Miller, Alex Otis, Andrew Otis, Kevin Ann Otis, Gary Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Doug Soebbing, Bruce Stoddard, Carol Stoddard, Donna Strong, Kevin Wilmot

Ushers:

8:15 - Team 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Gordon Gregory, Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Betty Ann Roe

10:45 - Team 9 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Kevin Miller, Kim Miller, Aaron Osman, Besty Osman, York Powers

Greeters:

8:15 - Barbara Beyer, Donna Dash, Jim, Pamela & Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Keith & Jeannie Backes, Marylu Lyman, Ruth Ewing

Parish Nurse: Cindy Soebbing

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Keith & Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

8:15 - Sam Funk

10:45 - Rachel Ash

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Carol Charlton, Shirley Petri, Don Swallow

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andrew Fulk

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jon Backes

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

May 13 Visitor Mailing Crew: Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

May 11 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

May 12 9:00-12:30 - Sandy Garver
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

May 13 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

May 14 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - Melissa Byrd

May 15 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
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, Sean Beal Childcare Providers
Lindsey Compton, Hannah Fitch 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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