



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, May 27, 2009

No. 21

Bells in Motion to Perform at Central

Bells in Motion with the Jane Hartman Trio will present a concert at Central Christian Church on **Sunday, May 31** at **4 p.m.** This concert will include pops and jazz numbers. Admission is \$10 per person and sold at the door. Put it on your calendar and invite your friends.

New Newsletter for Parents

Central's Children & Youth Ministry announces the publication of an all new monthly newsletter for parents beginning with the June 2009 edition. *Parent Link for Children & Parent Link for Teens* has information about upcoming events as well as movie and game reviews, and parenting tips, including activities to support a healthy family spiritual life. If you have not received your June issue, please contact **Pastor Robert** to make sure we have you on our mailing list.



Hunger Relief Team Needs You – June 20th

The Hunger Relief Team is scheduled to serve at Good Samaritan Inn on Saturday, June 20th. 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.

FunTimers on the Go to Rockome Gardens

Plan now to attend the June 25th FunTimers (for ages 55 & older) outing to Rockome Gardens in Arcola, in the heart of Illinois Amish country. We'll gather and leave the church at 10:30 a.m. Our adventure will begin with a delicious lunch in the Rockome Gardens Restaurant (menu selections run between \$6-\$10) and enjoy an afternoon of leisurely walks through the gardens. Attractions and demonstrations include a haunted cave, a train ride, broom-making, fire-starting, wire-bending, a potter, soap-making and more, all included in the admission fee of \$5 per person. We'll return to Decatur before 5 p.m. Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center!

Miracle Day 2009

Mark your calendars today for Miracle Day 2009 on Saturday, August 29th right here in Decatur. Join hundreds of Disciples from across Illinois and Wisconsin as we reach out into our neighborhoods to help lower income families and seniors with home improvement and safety projects. The Decatur site includes the neighborhoods adjacent to Prairie Avenue Christian Church. If you are willing to serve on the Central Planning Team, contact **Pastor Robert**.

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

Them Bones

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Charles Watkins

MUSICAMP 2009

"It's All About the Arts!"

This year MUSICAMP, June 8-12, from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., will again include time for singing with children in your age group. Meeting at First Baptist Church, the groups are divided into K and 1,2,3,4 and 5, 6. In addition to the singing, we will welcome artists to share their talents with us and work with us on various art projects. The older children will learn about digital photography. All children will have sessions in clay pottery, dance and movement, watercolors and storytelling. The day will begin with Pastor Steve sharing scripture and a word from God.

Please consider bringing your children to experience a week of art exploration with a group of children who have similar interests. If you have any questions contact **Don Martin**.

**St. Charles County
Youth Choir with
Millikin Youth Chorale
in Concert
Sunday, June 7
6:00 p.m.
in Central's Sanctuary**

Central Youth

Sunday, June 7th
Mini-Golf & Go-Karts
behind Pla Mor Lanes
1-3 p.m.
Children & Youth
Grades 3-12 are welcome!

Wednesday, June 24th
Central Youth Grill & Chill
Youth grades 6-12 are invited
to Pastor Robert's home 6-8
p.m. for Supper from the Grill,
Swimming and Yard Games.

CCC Youth Are on Facebook!

Central Youth now have their own Facebook Page! Youth 6th - 12th and their parents are invited to become a fan of the Central Christian Youth FB page. Make sure it is the page with the Decatur sign! Being a fan means you will receive updates and alerts on important events for youth and you will even be able to RSVP. So, if you are already on Facebook, become a fan today! Questions, contact **Pastor Robert**.

Still Time to Register for Camp!

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

Koinonia - Jr. & Middle School
June 22-27
Now \$200

8th Grade Conference
Finished 8th Grade
June 14-20
Now \$200

ADDaM Camp - High School
June 21-28
Now \$200

Genesis Camp - Finished 2nd -
3rd Grades
July 2-4
Now May 25th \$125

More info at
www.cciwdisciples.org

Charles's Column

Neil Shubin who is on the staff of the Field Museum in Chicago has written a delightful and accessible book on evolution and comparative anatomy entitled *Your Inner Fish*. It is enlightening, interesting and easy for the non-scientist like me. And it explains in part how my dear wife of forty-one years is compelled to return to the sea at least once every year. So I am writing this column with the sound of the Atlantic surf pounding against the beach outside our lovely accommodations on Pawley's Island, South Carolina, where we have been vacationing with our son Ben and daughter-in-law Anne-Karine and dear friend Constance Battle for the last week.

Earlier in the week, it was dreary and rainy, and the wind blew hard and relentlessly, so I actually felt most at home then: flat vista, driving wind, just like home in West Texas! But then by mid-week, the wind settled, the sun came out, and we had wonderful days on the beach. So that's pretty much over now for 2009.

But we continue to reflect on returning to our source, our mother the sea. Each of us began life in salt water, and each of us began to grow and develop with the pulsing sounds of our mother's heartbeat and then our own. It was dark and warm, but as our inner fish grew and developed, lost its tail and its gills and began to become recognizably human in shape, there was still the rhythm and taste of the sea. And it was true even for dry-land plains dwellers like me whose home was once at the bottom of a great ocean.

Our Lord Jesus grew up in the dry hills of Nazareth, but he began his ministry by the seashore, calling first one and then another of his disciples from their fishing nets to a new vocation, catching humanity for the kingdom of God. Jesus was amazingly at home on the water, preaching on the shore, standing in a boat, calming the sea, and walking upon the waves through the tempest with the command: "peace, be still."

How often we who dwell on the prairie find ourselves at sea, awash in anxiety and uncertainty and feeling as if we might drown. Life has a surging power, grief comes upon us in waves, and we struggle to keep our heads above water. But our faith is in One who brooded over the waters of chaos to create all that is, seen and unseen, and who has a singular determination to save us. So take a deep breath, and as life plunges you into troubled waters, remember that God is rushing to save you and lift you up above the flood like Noah.

Charles Watkins



Vacation Bible School is Coming and We Need YOU!

Bring your children and grandchildren to VBS from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Sunday, August 2 through Thursday, August 6. We need your help to make this year's VBS a success! Please call the church office or contact **Katie Powers** to volunteer.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Richard Ward & Janet Huth** and family following the May 21st death of their mother, **Helen Ward**.

Christian Children's Fellowship to Begin Sunday, June 7th



Christian
Children's
Fellowship

Beginning Sunday, June 7th at 9 a.m. in the Great Hall, children in grades Pre-K-6th are invited to join our Christian Children's Fellowship. CCF will meet in the Great Hall each Sunday in June, July and August from 9-9:45 a.m. CCF will include a light breakfast, brief lessons, play, dancing, and singing. On Sunday's, June 21, July 19 & August 16 we will go out for breakfast together. Parents are welcome to stay for breakfast and volunteers are welcome to help with the weekly activities. Contact **Pastor Robert** for more details. Please note: Children & Youth Sunday School classes are on recess and will not meet May 31st.

There's a Study/Prayer Group for You!

If you are interested in continuing in/or joining a prayer and study group similar to the Unbinding Your Heart groups, a sign up sheet will be available Sunday, May 31 or you may call the church office, 428-4336 to notify us of your interest. We will have Sunday a.m. groups, Wednesday night groups, and if enough interest, a week day group. Please let us know!

CCC Kid's Club on the Road this Summer

Central's Kid's Club for children grades 3-8 will begin the summer with a fun day at Fairview Park including a Picnic Lunch and Fishing at Dreamland Lake on Wednesday, June 3rd, noon to 3 p.m. There is no charge for the event. If you have child-friendly fishing gear, you may bring it with you. Parents & Grandparents are welcome too! Sign up in the Friendship Center or register online at the CCC Kid's Club Face Book Page. Future dates for CCC Summer Kid's Club are:

- June 24th (Weldon Springs Trip) 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- July 1st (Knights Action Park, Springfield) 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- July 15th (Lincoln Sites & Kicks, Springfield) 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- August 12th (Rock Springs Bike Ride) 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Register for the General Assembly

Registration is now open for the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) July 29—August 2, 2009 in Indianapolis. Central may send nine voting representatives (not including clergy who vote by virtue of office) and as many non-voting representatives as will attend. The floor of the assembly including participation in assembly debate as well as all assembly meal events and exhibits are open to voting and non-voting representatives alike. Voting representatives must be appointed by the Church Council at its June 17 meeting, so if you would like to vote at the assembly, please notify the church office.

To learn more about General Assembly, and to register and reserve a hotel room, follow the link on our website at www.cccdisciples.org



Sunday, May 31, 2009

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Chancel Bells

8:00-Anthem-Central Singers

10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:00-Adult Sunday School

4:00-Bells in Motion Concert,
Sanctuary

Monday (June 1)

5:30-Shepherding, Volunteer Room

Tuesday (2)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

5:15-Personnel Dept., Parlor

Wednesday (3)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240

12:00-Central Singers

12:00-3:00-CCC Kids Club, Fairview
Park Fishing Trip

5:15-175th Anniversary Task Force,
Disciple Room

6:00-Young Adults Study & Prayer,
Great Hall

6:30-MCCOCP, Disciple Room

7:00-Jubilee!, Choir Room

Thursday (4)

10:00-Alanon, 212

10:15-1:15-HSAC Meeting,

Disciple Room

6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, Great Hall

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (5)

7:00-Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday (6)

4:00-Angela Campbell-Hutcheson &
Frederick Sebree, Sanctuary Wedding

Counting On You

May 24

Worship Attendance 248
Sunday School Attendance 43

Serving Schedule—May 31, 2009

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Julie Martin, Mike Holbrook

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene Garver, Capt., Bev Chapman, Merle Chapman, Dennis Downey, Al Fagin, Chris Fagin, Sally Force, Sandy Garver, Dean Gray, Janet Gray, Gail Prince, Larry Prince, Dean Simcox, Sue Simcox

10:00 - 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, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, Dave Phillips, Nita Phillips, Brett Swallow, Kelly Swallow, Steve Swarthout, Janet Thicksten, Kathy Thornton, Kent West, Lea West

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Brenda Tankersley, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston, Betty Scott, Dave Scott

10:00 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

Greeters:

8:00 - Clark & Mary Waldmier, David & Rosalie Poland

10:00 - Ron & Mary Jane Oliver, Larry & Debbie Foster

Acolytes:

8:00 - Julia Funk

10:00 - Alexis Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:00 - Larry Pepper

Parish Nurse:

Jane Latshaw

Preparation of Communion:

Robyn Spry, Carol Charlton, Shirley Petri, Don Swallow

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams,

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Jon Backes,

10:00 service only - Ron Oliver,

June 3 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

June 1 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 2 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 3 9:00-12:30 - Joan Smith
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

June 4 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

June 5 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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 Coordinator
Katie Beal Childcare Coordinator
Joanne Frady, Sean 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

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