



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, June 10, 2009

No. 23

Mark Your Calendar!

The task force leading the celebration of Central's 175 years of serving has designated September 20 as "Central Homecoming Sunday." There will be a picnic-style meal at church that day, a program to recognize those who have come long distances and those who have been long-time members. We're even planning for a homecoming king and queen. After the meal, we hope there will be an opportunity for a pilgrimage to Keller Cemetery in Lovington where we hope to dedicate a new monument at the grave of Dr. Joseph Hostetler, the founding pastor of our congregation.

So contact your family and friends who live away from Decatur and invite them to come home to Central for our big Homecoming on September 20!



SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Five Smooth Stones
Text: I Samuel 17:4-11
Charles Watkins

Join us for Fellowship Sunday Lunch on Father's Day, June 21 in the Great Hall, following the second worship service. Sign up in the Friendship Center on Sunday, June 14.

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!

Welcome to the Digital World for Parents

Parents, guardians, and caregivers of any age children are invited to explore the digital world of the internet on **Thursday, June 25th from 6-8 p.m.** in the Friendship Center. Many young adults, children and youth are considered Digital Natives because they have experienced the internet and digital technology all of their lives. Parents are called Digital Immigrants because they often speak and understand a different language than their digital native children. In an effort to help parents and their children communicate and to expose both the benefits and the dangers of the social networking electronic world (Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Blogging, Texting, etc) **Pastor Robert**, a digital immigrant, will host a hands-on workshop to help us build bridges of communication with our digital natives. Please, sign up in the Friendship Center or by contacting Pastor Robert at rbushey@cccdisciples.org

Christian Children's Fellowship Sundays at 9 a.m.

Children in grades Pre-K-6th grade are invited to join our Christian Children's Fellowship Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Great Hall. 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; we will learn about ancient Rome and Paul, have crafts and games. On Sundays June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th 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.



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 is available in the Friendship Center 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!



Central Youth

Youth Heifer Ranch Trip

Central Youth leave for the Heifer International Livestock and Learning Center on Saturday, June 13th and will return late Friday, June 19th. Youth attending are **Avery Martin** and **Eric Harm**. **Pastor Robert** will accompany them along with three youth and three adults from First United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, June 24th CCC Kids to Weldon Springs 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Children grades 3-8 join us for the afternoon at Weldon Springs State Park! We will enjoy a picnic lunch, hiking the trail, and visiting the old school house. Bring \$3 for ice cream from the concession stand. Sign up this Sunday, email Pastor Robert at rbushey@cccdisciples.org or RSVP on the CCC Kids Club Facebook Page.

Wednesday, June 24th Central Youth Grill & Chill

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to Pastor Robert's home from 6-8 p.m. for Supper from the Grill, Swimming and Yard Games.

Miracle Day 2009

Central Youth will participate in Miracle Day activities on August 29th right here in Decatur. We will be painting, fixing porches, pulling weeds, etc. for folks who are unable to do the work themselves and live near Prairie Avenue Christian Church. Save the date on your calendar today!

Charles's Column

Hospitality. Welcome. Being made to feel "at-home." Our church tries in dozens of ways to extend warm welcome to those who enter our doors. The visitor pamphlets, the printed guide to special services like our wireless hearing assisting devices, large print bulletins and hymnals, clipboards for children, special gifts for first-time visitors, greeters at the doors upstairs and down, name tags, ushers who hand out worship bulletins with a smile, and printed bulletins that try to guide people easily through the service. We who are so comfortable in our church are always trying to see the experience of coming to church through the eyes of those who have not been here before. What can we do that will make it feel good to be here, to ease any unfamiliarity or awkwardness, to include the visitor as, "no more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home?"

One of the most important expressions of our congregation's welcoming hospitality is the presence at the main entrance of the front desk hosts, who have a friendly smile and a helpful world for the dozens of people who come through our doors through the week. People come for community meetings, for high school classes, for preschool classes, for S.T.E.P.S. therapies, for BabyTALK programs, for child care, for English-as-a-Second-Language classes. For us, it's a good feeling to walk into the church building, but for many others it is an intimidating and even scary experience. The front desk host at the west entrance is the friendly person who puts the stranger at ease and offers directions and information.

For many years **Joan Smith** has been the "mother" of the host desk program, recruiting volunteers and scheduling them Monday through Friday, morning and afternoon. Perhaps she has called you or helped you get started with this important ministry of hospitality. Joan has asked to be relieved of these responsibilities which she has carried out so conscientiously and capably for all these years. Thank you, Joan, for all you have done to make our building a welcoming place.

Now **Sandy Garver** has graciously agreed to take up the tasks of recruiting and scheduling volunteers to operate the host desk. So now I want to encourage you, when Sandy speaks to you or phones you, to say "Yes!" to her and make her job easy and fun. Even better, if you know that you could give one morning a week from nine to noon or one afternoon a week from one to four, go ahead and take the first step and contact Sandy yourself and volunteer. Become the welcoming face of Central Christian Church. Help the stranger feel like a new friend. Help our church extend Christ's own welcoming hospitality!

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, 428-4336 to register your child and contact **Katie Powers** to volunteer.



Mission Trip to Slidell, Louisiana – October 24-31!

Central Christian Church members and friends are making plans for a Mission Trip to Slidell, Louisiana this fall, October 24-31! We have been asked by **Johnny Wray**, former Director of Week of Compassion, to be part of a Blitz Build which will construct a new Community Center on the property of First Christian Church of Slidell. The new building will provide housing for continuing volunteers who come to the area to assist in the rebuilding following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and will assist the congregation in vital outreach and ministries to the community. Plan now to be a part of this exciting mission opportunity in October. See **Pastor Gretchen** for more information. You can read the story of this church's transformation and learn more about the mission trip, following the links on our website www.cccdisciples.org.

A Fun Time at Paul's Puttin' Place – Saturday, June 27th

Young Adults and Families with Young Children are invited to a fun afternoon at Paul's Puttin' Place on Saturday, June 27th. We'll gather at 3 p.m. to chase the little ball around the miniature golf course and join together for a potluck picnic supper. Guaranteed fun for the entire family! Group admission rates are \$3.25 for adults and \$2.25 for children. Bring one or two potluck dishes to share along with your own table service and beverage. Sign-ups begin in the Friendship Center this Sunday!

Register Your Child For Preschool

Central Christian Preschool is looking forward to our 45th year of service to the community. We still have openings in all classes, ages 2-5. There will be an afternoon four year old class this school year, from 12:15-2:45 p.m. There is a waiting list for the morning four year old class.

We're sad to report that **Mrs. Paula Gruen** will not be returning in the fall, so we are looking for someone interested in teaching a Parents & Twos class and a three year old class. The Parents & Twos class is one day a week on Thursdays and the three year old class is three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday. The teacher must be DCFS qualified to teach, with six semester hours of Early Childhood courses. If interested, please email the Preschool Director, **Shelly Messmore** at 428-4336 ext. 113 and leave a voice mail.

Note of Thanks and Appreciation Received

We'd like to extend a deep and heartfelt thank you to all our friends at Central who honored the life of our mother, Helen Ward, with your presence and your gifts of the heart when she was hospitalized and since her recent death. A special thanks to all the pastors for your loving care for us and to those who served our family as we celebrated her life among us. You have blessed us! God bless YOU!

Richard Ward & Janet Huth

Counting On You

June 7

Worship Attendance 271
Sunday School Attendance 65



Sunday, June 14, 2009

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Eric Lutz, Mandolin;
Don Martin, Auto Harp
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Marilyn
Ward, Piano; Erik Lutz, Banjo
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:00-Sunday School
9:00-CCF, Great Hall
2:00-4:00-Roy Schilling Birthday
Reception, Disciple Room

Tuesday (16)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
6:00-8:00-Education Coalition
Preschool Workshop, Great Hall

Wednesday (17)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240
12:00-Central Singers
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room
6:00-8:00-Education Coalition
Preschool Workshop, Great Hall
6:30-Unbinding Task Force Evaluation,
Disciple Room
6:30-Jubilee!, Choir Room

Thursday (18)

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

Saturday (20)

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

*Roy O. Schilling's 95th
Birthday Reception
Disciple Room
Sunday, June 14
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

No Gifts, Please

Serving Schedule—June 14, 2009

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Jane Watkins, John McClarey

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons

Brittney Munos
Gail Prince
Larry Prince
Dean Simcox
Sue Simcox
Daniel Hinze
David Martin
Julie Martin
Ron Oliver
Neil Baird

Elders

Jo Carter
John Graham
Cindy Soebbing
Felicity Williams
Jody Featherstun
Scott Hawbaker
Robert Garrett
Julie Martin
Keith Backes
Mark Beal
Alternate: Felicity Williams

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 4 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Gordon Gregory, Carole Holbrook, Mike Holbrook, Betty Ann Roe

10:00 - Team 9 - Ed Acheson, Capt., Kevin Miller, Kim Miller, Aaron Osman, Betsy Osman, York Powers

Greeters:

8:00 - Dean & Sue Simcox, Greg & Jo Carter

10:00 - Pamela Ferguson, Florence Bolin, Bob & Carol Bischoff

Acolytes:

8:00 - Brad Munos

10:00 - Joshua Bushey

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:00 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Ed & Joy Adams, Betty Chapman, Chloe & Bob Hoaglin

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Jon Backes

10:00 service only - Ron Oliver

June 17 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

June 15 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray
12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong
June 16 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
June 17 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
June 18 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
June 19 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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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
Shelly Messmore Preschool Director
Trudy Garland Preschool Teacher
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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