



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, July 8, 2009

No. 27

Miracle Day Volunteers Needed – Saturday, August 29th!

Miracle Day this year is taking on a different format from previous years. We are using a format developed by Operation InAsMuch for use in neighborhoods across the country. It takes its name from the words of Jesus reported in Matthew 25:40, “*In as much as you did it to one of the least of these...*” One of the sites is right here in Decatur, in the Prairie Avenue neighborhood. As dozens, perhaps hundreds of volunteers gather that day in our city, we will be serving elderly and low income homeowners by helping with tasks such as window repairs, steps or porch repairs, painting, yard clean up, flower planting, installing or servicing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, mattress turning, and hauling away unwanted items or debris. Additional projects include sewing lap robes and walker bags for nursing home residents, preparing meals, transporting food and drinks to work sites, inspecting bicycles and childcare for younger children. Registration forms for the Big day will be in the Friendship Center this Sunday and each Sunday throughout July. Donations are always needed. Volunteers are encouraged to bring tools needed for their projects. Watch the Visitor for more information. Information and volunteer registration forms are also available on our website at www.cccdisciples.org. Speak with **Pastors Gretchen** or **Robert** for information.

If you bought tickets for the Take-Out Chicken Dinner,
this Sunday is the pick up day!
Get your dinner at the west entrance
from 10:30-12:30 p.m.

Fellowship Sunday is July 19

This month’s Fellowship Sunday lunch will feature summer picnic fare, including grilled hamburgers with all the trimmings. Plan now to attend the July 19 lunch in the Great Hall following second service.

To make your reservation, write “Fellowship” next to your name in the friendship register this Sunday or call the church office, 428-4336. Reservations are important, so we can be sure to have plenty of food and a place set for you.

We Want YOU & YOUR FAMILY in our New Church Directory!

The Shepherding Department is working on plans to complete a new Church Directory in 2009. In order to make this directory the best ever, we invite you to make an appointment NOW for your family photographs. Photography dates are July 20, 21, 22, 28 and 29 and August 17, 18 and 19. Appointments will be scheduled between 2:30 and 9 p.m. on those days. Make an appointment this Sunday in the Friendship Center, by calling the church office (428-4336), or by going to our website at www.cccdisciples.org. Dates will fill up quickly, so make your appointment early.

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
The Opportunity
Text: Mark 6:14-29
Charles Watkins

Mark Your Calendar!

The climax of the 175th anniversary celebration at Central will be the Homecoming Picnic on Sunday, September 20th. Please contact now your family and friends who live away from Decatur and invite them to come home to Central for our big Homecoming Celebration!



Central Christian Church
1834-2009

Central Emergency Fund

Through the Central Emergency Fund, gifts such as assistance with prescription medicines, transportation, power bills and a variety of other types of assistance, Central reaches out to our neighbors. We work closely with agencies such as the Macon Assistance eXchange (MAX) program, the Good Samaritan Inn, the Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry, the Oasis Day Center, DOVE, and Catholic Charities. Requests for help has grown significantly during the past six months. The fund has been nearly depleted. The Emergency Fund exists completely through donations from members and friends of Central. This Sunday we will receive a special offering for the Emergency Fund. Please consider this vital outreach ministry for our neighborhood and wider community with a gift to the fund.

Central Youth

**Wednesday, July 15th
CCC Kids
to Knights Action Park
10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Children grades 3-8 join us for the afternoon at Knights Action Park! We will enjoy a picnic lunch and the water park. Cost is \$15 for water park. Bring your own lunch. Sign up this Sunday, email Pastor Robert at rbushey@cccdisciples.org or RSVP on the CCC Kids Club Facebook Page.

**Wednesday, July 15th
Central Youth
Grill & Chill**

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to Pastor Robert's home from 6-8p.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!

Summit 2.0.0.9

Summit for youth grades 7-12 will be held November 20-22, 2009 at the Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Illinois. Mark your calendars today. Registration forms are available at www.cciwdisciples.org and should be returned to the church office before September 1st with a check payable to Central for \$75 which includes meals & lodging. See Pastor Robert for more information or questions.

Charles's Column

In preparation for my Independence Day sermon last Sunday, I read several books about Thomas Paine, the best-selling author in America in the 18th Century, the man who changed America's mind about independence and mobilized public opinion for the patriot cause when most people in the colonies thought that King George ruled by "divine right," and that to oppose the British Crown was to defy and disobey God.

I have pondered why Thomas Paine is not fully embraced by American history as a founding father of our nation. Certainly he did not have the aristocratic bearing and education and social connections of other patriots who became military heroes, presidents of the new republic and celebrities in the popular mind. But the greatest barrier to his recognition as one of the most important figures in creating America was probably his religious unbelief. He was vocally anti-Christian. He was outspoken in his criticism of the church. And when added to his disagreeable personality and disheveled personal habits, one can start to understand our neglect of his importance in our history.

The religious beliefs of the founders of America were hugely diverse. Some were deists, believing that nature's God was indeed the creator but not at all involved in daily life. Others were members of established churches and orthodox in their belief. Thomas Jefferson as our third president spent his evenings in the White House using scissors to edit the New Testament to delete all miracle stories and other unscientific superstitions. He thought that the Christian scriptures had done great disservice to Jesus whom he profoundly admired. And James Madison was the champion of the disestablishment of all churches in the Constitution of the United States, the governing document of the oldest democracy in the world today.

We Americans have always tolerated great diversity of personal religious belief. But we go only so far. We do not tolerate those who are hostile to the church, and even when those individuals have contributed inestimably to our country and given the last full measure of their devotion to America, we choose to ignore them and their vital contribution to our heritage and our national life. And we struggle to acknowledge properly the contributions of Jews and Muslims, agnostics and atheists, and other non-conformists.

Studying the life and efforts of Thomas Paine challenges us to appreciate and honor those who even today contribute to America's greatness but disagree with us and even oppose our religious belief. I think the challenge of being truly American is always to respect and honor those who disagree with our opinions, oppose our beliefs, and yet love our country as much, if not more, than we do.

If I had lived in Philadelphia in 1776 with Thomas Paine, I am afraid I would have crossed the street to avoid any contact with him. He was despicable in his appearance, often drunk, and notorious in his contempt for the clergy. May his story caution us against prejudice and rejection of those who believe differently from us. As a clergy member of the religious establishment, I fear I might have avoided Jesus in his day as well. So I, and perhaps you, do well to be cautious in our rejection of those who think and believe differently.

Charles Watkins

Habitat for Humanity is Seeking New Homeowner/Partners

The Decatur Area Habitat for Humanity is seeking new individuals and families who are interested in learning more about home ownership through the Habitat program. Orientation is set for Sunday, July 26, 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie. If you or someone you know might be interested, contact the Habitat for Humanity office (425-6446) before July 16th. To qualify for a Habitat home one must be currently living in substandard housing; must have the ability to repay the mortgage (typically based on a 25-year payment plan with no interest); and be willing to partner with Habitat for Humanity which includes completing 300 hours of Sweat Equity (family members and friends can help with this), making monthly payments on time, maintaining your Habitat Home (guidance and support are provided) and participate in the Family Support Homeowner Education program. For more information, speak with **Pastor Gretchen**.

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.

Youth Sponsors Needed

As we begin planning for Fall and Winter Youth Ministry, we are in need of folks willing to help sponsor activities with youth in grades 3-6 and 7-12. Youth sponsors assist the youth with planning activities and serve as chaperones for the activities. **Janet Lyman** has faithfully served as a youth sponsor for the past decade and she would love for you to join her in this rewarding service to our church. The youth of our congregation look to our adult members for guidance and leadership as they grow in their faith journey. All potential youth sponsors must be at least 21 yrs. old, are required to participate in an interview with Pastor Robert and a criminal background check as part of our Safe Kids policy. Can you help shepherd our youth during the coming year? Contact **Pastor Robert** if you have questions or would like to schedule your interview.



Be a Youth Sponsor

Note of Thanks Received

Many thanks to the pastors who visited and prayed with me and other friends who remembered me with cards, calls and prayers during my hospitalization and afterward. I do feel blessed by your caring.

Sally Thicksten



Sunday, July 12, 2009

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: 8:00 Offertory-Daniel Hinze,
Saxophone; Carol Graham, Piano
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic
9:00-Sunday School
9:00-CCF, Great Hall
9:00-Jubilee! Rehearsal
10:30-12:30-Take-Out Chicken Dinner,
West Entrance

Monday (13)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

Tuesday (14)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study
11:00-CIOP, Disciple Room
5:00-CADV Meeting, Disciple Room

Wednesday (15)

9:00-Baby Talk, 240
10:00-4:00-CCC Kids Club, Knights
Action Park, Springfield, IL
6:00-8:00-Youth, Robert & Teri
Bushey's house

Thursday (16)

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

Saturday (18)

8:00-2:00-Fellowship Dept., Great Hall
Kitchen

Counting On You

July 5

Worship Attendance 224
Sunday School Attendance 41

Serving Schedule—July 12, 2009

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Bruce Campbell, Mary Jane Oliver

Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Gary Rutherford	Mike Holbrook
Roger Rutherford	John McClarey
Doug Soebbing	Jane Watkins
Donna Strong	Janet Lyman
Sue Ann Cain	John Graham
Larry Foster	Lawrence Thicksten
Bruce Stoddard	Lois Whitaker
Carol Stoddard	Becky Johnston
Kevin Wilmot	Connie Bordner
	Alternate: Dick Cain

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, Eirk 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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski

10:00 - Team 8 - Dean Hadden, Capt., Pam Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

Greeters:

8:00 - Shirley Petri, Carol Charlton, Bess & Harold King

10:00 - Randy, Shirley & Jessica Brooks, Dee Hill

Acolytes:

8:00 - Bobby Munos

10:00 - Austin Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Hinze

10:00 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Diane & Robert Reed, Bill & LeEtta Bass, Jane Latshaw

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Jon Backes

10:00 service only - Karen Baird

July 15 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Marge Karl, Joanne Gustin

Hosts:

July 13 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

July 14 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

July 15 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

July 16 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Judy Ford

July 17 9:00-12:30 - Sue Ann Cain
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
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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 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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