



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, July 15, 2009

No. 28

## You Oughta Be in Pictures!

Do you ever see people in church and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished that you could put a name with a face? Are you new to our church and wish that you had something to help you identify those you see? Well, help is on the way! We are producing a NEW pictorial directory for our church. There is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10" color portrait and directory for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically, immediately after you are photographed. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. We look forward to "seeing you in pictures." Our new church directory won't be complete without YOU in it! 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 1:30 and 8 p.m. on those days. Check your calendar and make your appointment online at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org) or by calling the church office (428-4336), or this Sunday morning in the Friendship Center. Dates will fill up quickly, so make your appointment early!

## Deadline Nearing for Miracle Day Volunteer Sign-Up!

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 are in the Friendship Center now. Donations are always needed. Volunteers are encouraged to bring tools needed for their projects. We need volunteers to register NOW so plans can be finalized! Information and volunteer registration forms are also available on our website at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org). Speak with **Pastors Gretchen** or **Robert** for more information.

**SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2009**  
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00  
**How God Sees Us**  
Text: Ephesians 1:3-14  
Charles Watkins

## Miracle Day Fund Raiser Success

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Miracle Day Fund Raiser this past Sunday – for those who came early and stayed late to dish up Chicken Dinners and Texas Sheet Cake, for those who took tickets and handed out dinners, for those who organized and car-hopped, and for those who purchased and enjoyed meals – thank you, thank you! Working together, we raised more than \$900 for Miracle Day – money that will be used to help repair the homes of elderly and low-income folks in the Prairie Avenue area right here in Decatur. Thank you for helping to make miracles happen!

## Welcome New Member



Welcome to **Mark Tillman**, who became a member of Central by Confession of Faith on July 12. Mark is pictured with his 7 year old daughter, Kylee.



## Central Youth

**Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
CCC Kids to Rock Springs  
for a Bike Ride  
9:00 a.m. - Noon**

Children grades 3-8 join us for a morning bike ride at Rock Springs. Bring your own lunch and your bike. Sign up by emailing Pastor Robert at [rbushey@cccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org) or RSVP on the CCC Kids Club Facebook Page.

**Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
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 29<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.cciwdisciples.org) and should be returned to the church office before September 1<sup>st</sup> with a check payable to Central for \$75 which includes meals & lodging. See **Pastor Robert** for more information or questions.

## Charles's Column

Whenever summer arrives, I always feel compelled, though often I resist, to tell you the story of how I came to be a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I have told you about it in sermons, in columns here, and in personal conversations. So I know that you know that I am a grateful refugee from fundamentalism, sectarianism, biblical literalism, moral elitism, and religious right-wing politics. If you have heard it all too often from me, feel free to move on to more exciting parts of the newsletter—Miracle Day in August, our next Mission Trip to the Gulf region, and Vacation Bible School.

Still, like most religious converts, I continue to be excited and amazed at my own deliverance from really bad, mean-spirited, sectarian religion to an enlightened, intellectually defensible, spiritually compelling, and personally liberating faith in Jesus Christ the liberator and savior.

I was born into the faith, the son and grandson of lay preachers, one of whom I was named for because at my birth I looked so much like my grandfather. And of course, all newborns look exactly like my grandfather. So I grew up with his name and with the expectation that surely I would be a powerful evangelist as he was. Like most doomed youngsters, I ran from that fate with revulsion. As an adolescent I rejected the foundations of his faith that the Bible is literally and verbally and infallibly factual, that all those who don't believe as we do are lost and condemned, that only we know the truth, and that the world is an evil place from which we need to pray every day that God will deliver us in apocalyptic and cataclysmic destruction of the earth and its sinfulness. And the sooner, the better.

By a gracious and amazing divine providence, circumstances brought me to a Disciples of Christ congregation when I was sixteen years old. The pastor of that church, who was born one hundred years ago this year (in the year of Lincoln's and Darwin's centennials), stunned me with an astonishing and deeply convincing different take on Christian faith and life.

To my amazement, I came to a church which loves the world, doesn't despise it, which understands that we are "Christians only, not the only Christians," which continually reaches out to other denominations and even other religions with respect and humility because our core conviction is that unity of all believers is God's will. I came to a church which admires and respects both Lincoln and Darwin, that does not condemn political reconciliation (with malice toward none) and scientific insight (we all have in inner fish). My heart was moved at the new realization that God is going to save lots of folks who believe nothing that I believe and lots that I don't believe.

Ours is a church that values intellect, champions education for all, embraces the socially rejected, and insists on personal freedom in reading and interpreting scripture. I continue to be mystified that the whole world is not beating a path to our door, and that others do not desire to feel as joyous and free as I do participating in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I am every day so grateful to be in fellowship and partnership with you in our remarkable church, or what our denomination's ecumenical officer Robert Welsh has famously termed "our nifty, little church."

*Charles Watkins*

**Don't forget the Fellowship Sunday Lunch,  
in the Great Hall, this Sunday,  
following the second worship service.**

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bill & Claudine Nichols, Claudia & Leo Quigg** and family following the July 4<sup>th</sup> death of niece and cousin, *Linda Shewmake Perry* of Lawrence, Kansas.

## Say Thanks!

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force has now published six issues of a four page Sunday bulletin insert highlighting each month's celebration emphasis. These cleverly designed, imaginatively formatted, and colorful publications are designed and printed by task force member **Steve Funk** with the help of **Dennis Downey's** research in the Central archives. The latest big hit was "175 years of weddings" at Central. Mention your appreciation to Steve and Dennis for these keep-sake publications.

## 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. Speak with **Pastor Gretchen** for more information. You can read the story of this church's transformation and learn more about the mission trip by following the links on our website at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org).

## A Community Conversation on the Economy

Join WILL radio staff, your neighbors and friends for a discussion of the economy in Macon County. WILL is working on a summer-long project to report on the impact of the local economy, to gather stories and provide information about services available. How has the recession affected your savings? What's happened to your family as the economy has failed? Anyone is welcome to attend. This will be a moderated, broad-ranging community discussion to understand the impact of the recession on our county. Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall

## Progress Continues on Plans for Federal Reserve Visit in Decatur

Central IL Organizing Project (CIOP) continues to plan for a visit from the Federal Reserve in Washington, DC on Saturday, August 15. A community meeting will take place that day at 9:30 a.m. at the Decatur Civic Center. There is no cost for attending, however, tickets are required and will be available soon at the church office. We will have opportunities to submit questions for the representatives from DC and Chicago about the state of the economic recovery and the role of the reserve in our community. Decatur is the smallest community of ten visits planned nationwide. Mark your calendar and plan to participate!



### Sunday, July 19, 2009

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Christopher Strong, trumpet; Beth Slate, organ  
10:00 Anthem-Chancel Choir  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic  
9:00-Sunday School  
9:00-CCF, Breakfast Out  
9:00-Jubilee! Rehearsal  
11:00-Fellowship Sunday Dinner, Great Hall

### Monday (20)

1:30-8:00-Church Directory Pictures  
6:30-Unbinding Task Force, Volunteer Room

### Tuesday (21)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study  
1:30-8:00-Church Directory Pictures  
7:00-Community Grant Meeting, Disciple Room

### Wednesday (22)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240  
1:30-8:00-Church Directory Pictures

### Thursday (23)

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

### Saturday (25)

1:30-Wedding Reception, Great Hall

## Counting On You

### July 12

Worship Attendance ..... 272  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 62

*Have you remembered  
Central Christian  
Church  
in your will?*

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## Serving Schedule—July 19, 2009

### Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Mike Holbrook, Claudia Quigg

### Deacons:

8:00 - 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

10:00 - 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:

8:00 - 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 - Ann Harshman, Mary Kincaid, Charlie & Nicole Ropp

10:00 - Andy & Theresa Fulk, Neil & Karen Baird

### Acolytes:

8:00 - Brad Munos

10:00 - Jessica Brooks

### P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:00 - Larry Pepper

### Preparation of Communion:

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

### Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Doug Soebbing

10:00 service only - Richard Ward

**July 22 Visitor Mailing Crew:** Joanne Gustin

### Front Door Hosts:

July 20 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

July 21 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

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

July 22 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

July 23 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

July 24 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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  
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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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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