



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, August 12, 2009

No. 32

Canned Pastas or Stews Sunday, August 16

In response to the immediate needs in our community, the Christian Action and Community Service Department is sponsoring a Summer Food Collection for the Northeast Community Fund food pantry to help replenish their stock of some items in high demand. This Sunday we invite you to bring **Canned Pastas and/or Stews** (chicken & dumplings, ravioli, macaroni & beef, Spaghetti O's, beef stew) in 15-32 oz. cans. We will collect the items in a shopping cart that you will find at the West Entrance. You may also donate food or money directly to the pantry by calling 429-5846.



VBS Went to Crocodile Dock

Thirty children and 25 leaders navigated the bayous of Crocodile Dock VBS last week. The Exodus story guided the lessons each week as we learned to *FEAR NOT* because God is a trustworthy and powerful God who forgives us and gives us life. Stories, hands-on activities, special crafts and snacks made the swamp-like experience a joyful one for all ages. Thanks to **Katie Powers**, VBS Director and the entire Crocodile Dock Crew for their encouraging leadership!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009
WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00
Giving Thanks at All Times
Text: Ephesians 5:15-20
Charles Watkins

This Sunday, August 16
Fellowship Sunday Lunch
Great Hall

Call the church **TODAY**
(428-4336)
to turn in your reservation!

Make Sure YOU are Part of Our 175th Anniversary Directory!

Our goal is to have every Central family represented in this book which will help us celebrate our past as well as our future! Three days of photography remain (August 17-19) so it's not too late to schedule your appointment in available slots between 1:30 and 8 p.m. on those days. You can make an appointment by calling the church office (428-4336) or clicking on the link on our webpage at www.cccdisciples.org. Those who are ill, shut-in or deployed military personnel are invited to submit a candid photo (nothing with a copyright, please) for the directory as well. If you have not yet scheduled an appointment, you may receive a phone call soon (from a 419 area code) to assist you in scheduling your photo session.



Central Youth

Miracle Day 2009

Time is running out! We need your registration forms this Sunday for Miracle Day! 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.



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

When I returned to Decatur from the 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis last week, I received two items in which you as a congregation are recognized and honored. One is the 2009 *Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, and one is a new publication which honors contributors to the Disciples Mission Fund in 2008.

In both publications, major contributors to the Disciples Mission Fund, the family fund of all our general units, regions, colleges, seminaries, and agencies, are highlighted. Out of 3700 Disciples congregations across the North American continent, you are ranked as the sixth most generous contributor to Disciples mission causes around the world.

Last year, you were seventh, and the previous year you were eighth, and now only five churches in our communion are giving more than you are to our denomination's mission outreach. You rank 21st in size. Here is the current tally.

Congregation	City	Participating Members	DMF Giving in 2008
University CC	Ft. Worth, TX	3417	\$129,375
First CC	Edmond, OK	1015	\$108,977
Central CC	Lexington, KY	945	\$ 96,788
First CC	Ft. Smith, AR	410	\$ 81,344
Country Club CC	Kansas City, MO	2608	\$ 79,764
Central Christian	Decatur, IL	762	\$ 77,564

Among all Disciples congregations in our Illinois-Wisconsin region, you are far and away the largest giver. If Central cut its outreach giving in half, you would still be the largest donor to Disciples mission causes in our region.

One feature of leaving Decatur and seeing our church's work from a larger perspective is that one sees how vitally important you and your generosity are in the life of our denomination. You may come to worship each week and never even know that you are gathered into one of the most generous congregations among Disciples in North America.

Central Christian of Decatur has a generous, worldwide vision of mission and service built into its DNA. You have always been a leader among congregations in your support for causes beyond yourself. Thank you, Central, and congratulations for your achievement.

Charles Watkins

Youth Sponsors Needed for Fall 2009

Do you love to read about the activities our youth are involved in throughout the year in this space? Adult Youth Sponsors make those activities possible. We are in need of 2-3 sponsors for our Junior High and Senior High Youth Ministry. Are you the person for this ministry? Can you laugh? Are you able to listen to a young person? Can you spare a couple hours per week to make a lifetime of difference in a young person's faith journey? Fall is approaching very quickly and without additional sponsors our Youth Ministry will lack the support needed for meeting our mission and ministry with teens. We will be forced to reduce the activities and opportunities offered for our youth. Contact **Pastor Robert** as soon as possible if you are interested.

News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of **Kay E. Allen** following her death of August 2nd.....to **Andy & Theresa Fulk** and family following the August 4th death of Andy's mother, *Mary Elizabeth Fulk*.....to **Sue Ann & Dick Cain** following the August 7th death of her father, *Walter Ivan Price* of Mattoon.....and to **Juanita Reynolds** following the death of her husband, *Charles W. Reynolds* on August 10th.

Congratulations to **Dave & Christy Hanson** on the birth of their son, **Isaac Timothy** on August 5th. Isaac is also welcomed home by his big sister, **Haley**.

Two Mission Trips Planned to Slidell, Louisiana

The Fall Mission Trip is still on for October 24-31 although our focus will change a bit. Participants on the fall mission trip will be working in the Slidell neighborhoods to help rebuild and repair private homes following the devastating hurricanes of recent years. In addition, Central members will be participating in a special Blitz Build of a new Community/Outreach Center at First Christian Church in Slidell from March 14-20, 2010. The new center will provide housing for continuing volunteers who come to the area to assist in the rebuilding following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and assist the congregation in outreach and ministries to the community. Speak with **Pastor Gretchen** for more information or if you are interested in either or both mission opportunities.



Looking for Mentors! Mother Mentors!

The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and BabyTALK are looking for volunteer mentors for their Mentoring Mothers program for teen mothers, many of whom are students at some time in the Phoenix Alternative program, which meets on our second floor. The mission of the project is to positively impact the lives of pregnant or parenting youth in Decatur and Macon County by providing female adult support and guidance. And, by providing young mothers with consistent, caring mentors, they will learn to become independent, successful individuals and parents.

What does a mentor do?

Encourage mothers to complete high school and continue with their education or obtain gainful employment; help teens set and achieve personal, academic, parenting, and career goals; build support systems and friendships with young mothers; and make a difference!

For more information contact: Lynne Maisel, Program Coordinator, The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County, 429-3000.

Celebration Parking Lot Success!

Twenty-four volunteers from Central and four volunteers from Prairie Avenue parked over 300 vehicles raising \$1286 in thirty hours at our parking lot for the Decatur Celebration. Funds raised will be used for Miracle Day on August 29th right here in Decatur. Several homeowners will receive the blessing of much needed home repair or improvement. Thanks to National City Bank who gave us permission to use their facility for free at Main and Eldorado Streets. Thanks to all of the youth and adult volunteers who helped staff our lot, and to the members of Central who supported our fundraiser by parking in our lot!



Sunday, August 16, 2009

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services

Music:

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 Lunch,
Great Hall

Monday (17)

1:30-8:00-Directory Pictures

5:30-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Rm.

6:00-Baby Talk meeting, Disciple Rm.

Tuesday (18)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,
Senior Pastor's Study

1:30-8:00-Directory Pictures

Wednesday (19)

9:00-Baby Talk, 240

1:30-8:00-Directory Pictures

Thursday (20)

10:00-Alanon, 212

7:00-Chancel Choir

Counting On You

August 9

Worship Attendance 264

Sunday School Attendance 61

Central Has a Facebook Page

For those of you on Facebook, search for Central Christian Church Decatur IL and become a fan of our page. Events, discussions, photos and more will be posted on the page.

Serving Schedule—August 16, 2009

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - John McClarey, Randy Brooks

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 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 - Al & Chris Fagin, Dean & Janet Gray

10:00 - Larry & Janet Thicksten, Steve & Carrie Funk

Acolytes:

8:00 - Sam Funk

10:00 - Andrew Otis

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:00 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Brenda & Don Tankersley, Mary Jane Linton,
Connie Schabowski, Linda Shambaugh

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - John Flanders

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Doug Soebbing

10:00 service only - Karen Baird

August 19 Visitor Mailing Crew: Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Front Door Hosts:

Aug. 17 9:00-12:30 - Janet Gray

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Aug. 18 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

12:30-4:00 - Betty Chapman

Aug. 19 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Aug. 20 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher

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

Aug. 21 9:00-12:30 - Betty Scott

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

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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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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