



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, August 19, 2009

No. 33

With Blankets+ You Can Blanket the World With Love!

When disaster strikes, people often need blankets—and much more. They need food, shelter, safe water. And, as the recovery process unfolds, they need tools, training, and other resources to help them rebuild their lives.

Contributions to **Blankets+** mean that Church World Service is there for the long haul as families recover from a disaster. And, we're helping families struggling against grinding poverty as they seek to develop viable, sustainable communities and livelihoods.

At its heart, **Blankets+** means *you*. Each year, through your contributions, you make this ministry of hope a reality for people in need the world over. Please be generous in your support for **Blankets+** this Sunday, August 23rd!



Mark Your Calendar for “Central’s Homecoming Sunday”

The task force leading the celebration of Central’s 175 years of serving has designated September 20th 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. 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!

Just Flicks Series Announces Line-Up

The Just Flicks series heads into the 2009-2010 season with a great line-up of social justice oriented films. Please mark your calendars now for the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Film</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sept. 13, 2009	Freedom Writers (2007)	1st Presbyterian
Oct. 11, 2009	Doubt (2008)	Central Christian
Nov. 8, 2009	Twelve Angry Men (1957)	1st Presbyterian
Jan. 10, 2010	Billy Elliott (2000)	Central Christian
Feb. 14, 2010	Best Years of Our Lives (1946)	1st Presbyterian
Mar. 14, 2010	Something the Lord Made (2004)	Central Christian
April 11, 2010	The Visitor (2007)	1st Presbyterian
May 9, 2010	Praying with Lior (2007)	Central Christian

We’re really pleased with the diversity of films, topics and eras represented, and we’re looking forward to another terrific year.

The Peace & Justice Task Force

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:00

Promises to Keep

Text: Joshua 24:1-18

Charles Watkins

Children & Youth Sunday School Recess

Children & Youth Sunday School classes will continue with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, August 30th and will be on recess Sunday, September 6th. We will return to our regular classes on Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School teachers and substitutes are needed for the 2009-2010 school year. **Contact Pastor Robert** if you are interested.

Peanut Butter Sunday, August 23

Two carts of food have already been given in August! Let’s fill the cart one more time! This Sunday we invite you to bring **Peanut Butter** in 32 oz. or smaller size jars. We will collect the items in a shopping cart that you will find at the West Entrance. 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. You may also donate food or money directly to the pantry by calling 429-5846.

Central Youth

Miracle Day 2009
Saturday, August 29
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Central Youth will participate in Miracle Day activities on August 29th 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. Lunch will be provided. Bring your own water bottle, gloves if you have them, paint brushes and rollers. Gather at Central at 7:30 a.m. and we will go to PACC as a group.

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. Scholarships are available. See **Pastor Robert** for more info.

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. 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. 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 activities and opportunities offered. Contact **Pastor Robert** as soon as possible if you are interested.

Charles's Column

For forty years, I have been a "bottle-neck" in our denominational system. At least that is how many denominational executives have seen me and other pastors of local congregations. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a constant need to interpret to people in the pews what our church is doing beyond the local congregation. There are newsletters, reports, interpretive pieces, and success stories from the regions, from the General Units, from our colleges and universities, and from our church missionaries around the world. And most of that torrent of information flows across the pastor's desk.

Each pastor has to decide how much of this will be passed on to the congregation. How much space in the congregation's newsletter can be devoted to denominational interpretation and promotion? How many sermons can highlight the accomplishments of our amazing denomination? How many minutes-for-mission in the weekly worship services can be devoted to news and events of the wider church? And how much non-local church information will the congregation tolerate? For leaders of our church beyond the local congregation, the local pastor has always been the "bottle-neck" that good news just could not get past. I have been told to my face that I am keeping important information from reaching you!

But no more and never again! Thanks to the advent of the internet and the development of web-sites by our denomination, by each of our regions and general units, and by all of our colleges and universities, you have as much access to information about our church as I do! And I am so glad. If you will spend only two or three hours a day at your computer, going from web-site to web-site, you can know virtually everything that your mission dollars are doing all around the globe. And it's a huge relief to me that you can know everything I know and probably lots more!

The place to start is our denomination's web-site: www.disciples.org

At the General Minister and President's conference for ministers in Chicago last year, I was introduced to the extremely young person who spends full time keeping our church's web presence up-to-date. It really is an excellent site, and I commend it to you enthusiastically. I have it bookmarked on my computer so that I see what's new there every morning. And because I know that you have the same access to it that I do, I am no longer guilt-laden that I haven't told you everything that I learn there.

The other site that I visit frequently is the *DisciplesWorld* page: www.disciplesworld.com. *DisciplesWorld* is not an official organ of our denomination and it receives no Disciples Mission Fund support. It is an independent journal of news and opinion about what's going on in our church. Until recently, I found that it gave me quicker access to General Unit news than our church's official web-site. Gladly, I am no longer a barrier between our wider church and you. I sleep easier knowing that you have access to every wonderful accomplishment and achievement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which depends entirely on your generosity in mission giving!

Charles Watkins



News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Edith Mellinger** and family following the August 17th death of her husband, *Wayne Mellinger*.

Our Identity

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a community of believers who through baptism into Jesus Christ are bound by covenant to God and one another. Disciples draw their inspiration from Scripture and the Holy Spirit, celebrating around the Lord's Table the life, death, resurrection and continuing presence of Christ. They proclaim the Good News of salvation and claim as their particular mission the quest for Christian unity. While stressing freedom and diversity under God, they believe unity and mission are inseparable. They witness and serve among the whole human family in the interest of peace, justice, mercy and kindness.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Central Christian Church is to love God and through Christ serve others. This mission finds expression in deepening our spirituality, developing our capacity to serve, and reflecting the diversity of God's creation.

We believe that God is calling us to:

- ◆ **Deepen** the spiritual life and promote the intergenerational spiritual growth of our congregation.
- ◆ **Discover** ways to attract young families and encourage their fuller participation.
- ◆ **Diversify** our congregation by finding ways to meet the spiritual needs of all racial, socio-economic, and generational groups.
- ◆ **Develop**, strengthen, and support our youth ministry.
- ◆ **Demonstrate** good stewardship using our time, talent, facilities and our human, material, and financial resources.

Deficit Reaches \$38,000

For years, our congregation has moved forward in mission and service, spending more money for Jesus Christ than we actually receive. We blast ahead, confident that at the end of the year, your generosity will catch up with our spending. Our current budget, on an emergency footing, anticipates that we will spend down half of our congregation's operating reserve this year, recognizing that these are extraordinary economic times and that we must not let our good news mission grind to a halt just because of a world-wide recession.

But seven months into the year, we have already spent \$38,000 more to do Christ's work here than the church has received. August has five Sundays. Could you, on the fifth Sunday of this month, give an extra week's contribution beyond your plan and pledge, to make sure that your church continues to move ahead? Your best and most generous effort will surely help the cause of keeping Central's mission and witness strong. God bless you for all that you do for your church!



Sunday, August 23, 2009

8:00 and 10:00-Worship Services
Music: Offertory-Jubilee! and John Baird, Keyboard

10:00 Anthem-Jubilee! and Chancel Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:00-Sunday School

9:00-CCF, Great Hall

9:00-Jubilee! Rehearsal

Monday (24)

5:30-Festival Choirs meeting, Parlor

Tuesday (25)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

5:15-Personnel Department, Parlor

7:00-Dorcas, home of Shirlee Johnson

Wednesday (26)

9:00-Baby Talk Parents, 240

10:30-4:00-Baby Talk Training, Disciple Room

5:30-Stewardship Dept., Disciple Room

6:00-Preschool Orientation

6:00-Unbinding Task Force, Volunteer Room

Thursday (27)

10:00-Alanon, 212

7:00-Chancel Choir

Saturday (29)

8 a.m.-4 p.m.-Miracle Day, Prairie Avenue Neighborhood

Counting On You

August 16

Worship Attendance	267
Sunday School Attendance	47

Serving Schedule—August 23, 2009

Elders:

8:00 & 10:00 - Kevin Miller, Jody Featherstun

Elders Serving Hospital Communion

St. Mary's Hospital: Elder Claudia Quigg

Decatur Memorial: Elder Lois Whitaker

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 - Ed & Joy Adams, Don & Brenda Tankersley

10:00 - Bruce & Carol Stoddard, Keith & Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

8:00 - Julia Funk

10:00 - Austin Econie

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:00 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

Van Drivers:

8:00 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:00 service - Keith Backes

10:00 service only - Ron Oliver

August 26 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Betty McKown

Front Door Hosts:

Aug. 24 9:00-12:30 - Sue Ann Cain

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

Aug. 25 9:00-12:30 - Darla Lienemann

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

Aug. 26 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith

12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Aug. 27 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Aug. 28 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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 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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