



The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, September 9, 2009

No. 36



Fall Schedule Begins Sunday

This Sunday, September 13, Central will return to the regular schedule with worship at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

Saving the Life We Lose

Text: Mark 8:34-9:1

Charles Watkins

Commemorative Bookmarks For Sale

The 175th Anniversary Task Force has commissioned commemorative book marks which will be available for sale at the Homecoming Picnic on Sunday, September 20. There will be two different choices: the ribbon book mark is available for \$12, and the hook style is available for \$10. Great for gifts!



Election of Officers September 20

In morning worship services on September 20, you will receive a ballot for election of Trustees, Deacons, Elders and Emeritus Officers. All members are encouraged to be present and cast a ballot. The nominated slate of officers was published in last week's issue of *The Central Visitor*.

Kick Off Your Fall With a New Study Group at Central!

This fall we will kick off Phase II of Unbinding Your Heart as several new study groups form to continue our emphasis on sharing, prayer and study! All Central members and friends are invited to participate in one or more of the groups described below. Groups will begin the week of September 27th and run for 7 weeks, finishing up the 2nd week of November! Sign-ups begin this Sunday in the Friendship Center and sample study materials will be available for viewing. Study books for all the groups are \$7 each, payable at the first group session. A common meal will be offered on Wednesday nights, from 5:45 to 6:30, before the group sessions. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are welcome to help defray the cost. Childcare will be offered on Wednesday evenings, if requested.

Homecoming Picnic

Make your reservation this Sunday for the Homecoming Picnic on September 20 on the west lawn of the church. Special awards are planned in a variety of categories for those who attend.

Hostetler Monument Dedication

Central has erected a new monument on the grave of its founding pastor, Elder Joseph Hostetler who began preaching in the old log courthouse on Lincoln square in 1833, organized our congregation in 1834, and donated the land at the corner of Wood and Water Street for our first meetinghouse. The monument will be dedicated at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20, at Keller Cemetery one mile south of Lovington, following the church picnic.

Fully Devoted - Spiritual Life Study led by Liz Campbell & Gretchen

Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 212

Fully Devoted - Spiritual Life Study led by Jody Featherstun, Rosie

Doore, & Louise Boline

Monday, 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Disciple Room

Acts Bible Study led by Larry Otis & Dick Cain

Wednesday, 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Disciple Room

Wednesday Night Supper (for Group Participants)

Wednesday, 5:45-6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

The Shack - Young Adult Group led by Kevin Miller & Katie Powers

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Disciple Room

The Shack - led by Linda Kuhns

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the church parlor

Acts Bible Study led by Julie Martin & Betty Scott

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Room 280

Central Youth

Parents Meeting Sunday, September 13th at Noon

Parents of youth grades 6-12 are invited to an informational meeting as we plan for our 2009-2010 Youth program. A light lunch will be provided in the Great Hall. Bring your calendars, ideas, and suggestions.

Sunday, September 13th at 5:30-7 p.m.

Youth Grades 6-12 will participate in the Great Pizza Challenge. We will be ordering from several local pizza places and deciding on the best delivered pizza in Decatur! Come hungry and ready to have fun.

Summit 2.0.0.9

Summit for youth grades 6-12 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 the church office or at www.cciwdisciples.org and should be returned to the church office no later than this Sunday with a check payable to Central for \$75 which includes meals & lodging. Scholarships are available. See Pastor Robert for more information or questions.

Children & Youth Sunday School Recess

Children & Youth Sunday School return to regular classes this Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School teachers and substitutes are still needed for the 2009-2010 school year. Contact Pastor Robert if you are interested.

Miracle Day 2009

Saturday, August 29th volunteers from Paris, Gibson City, Litchfield and Fairview Heights joined Decatur Disciples, Methodist, Presbyterians and Lutherans in an effort to bring transformation to twenty homeowner owned properties in the Clokey Park, Nelson Park and Lion's Park neighborhoods. Central volunteers made up one third of those who gave their fabulous mid-



summer day to bring some hope into neighborhoods that "are at best suffering from casual neglect and disinvestment by both private and government institutions" according to resident Rev. Jason Butterick, Associate Pastor at Prairie Avenue Christian Church. East Eldorado Street which borders the neighborhoods to the north for instance

was once lined with retail and restaurants, neon and bright lights, replaced by pay day lenders, fast tax return shops and empty lots and buildings.

So what did we accomplish?

We pre-washed, scraped & painted a house and three garages.

We sewed dozens of lap robes and walker bags.

We repaired two porches and one garage, painted four porches and replaced one porch.

We scraped & painted windows and trim at five houses.

We replaced downspouts, a privacy fence and trimmed several trees and bushes.

We cleaned the boulevards of East Main and Prairie Streets.

We prepared about a hundred sack lunches and delivered them.

We repaired electrical wiring in a house where only one outlet was working.

We replaced a ceiling in an elderly man's bedroom.

We replaced carpet on outdoor steps and repaired the hand railing.

We replaced broken window panes and hung three storm doors and a new entry door.

We hauled about 60 pickup truck loads of trash & debris to fill two large dumpsters.

In short, we performed miracles for folks who either could not afford the needed work and/or could not complete the work due to physical limitations. Some homeowners worked alongside us and all were greatly appreciative of the work that was accomplished. The volunteers treated each project as if it were for their own home. Several days of pre-project work took place in the weeks prior and several days of follow-up work has taken place already.

Plans are already being made for another day next year with the hopes of extending our reach with more ecumenical partners. Thank you to all who donated to Miracle Day fundraisers and those who volunteered to make the day a great success!



Robert Bushey

News From the Pews....

Congratulations to **Bill & Mary Alice Rule**, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 9.....and to **John & Lori Graham**, of Washington, D.C. on the September 6th birth of their son, **Jack Joseph**. Jack is also welcomed home by his big sister **Annalia**. Proud grandparents are **John & Carol Graham**.

Music Opportunities at Central Christian Church

Singers are needed for our **Central Singers**, a ladies group that meets on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon. We love to sing together and we assist in worship about one time a month.

Ringers are needed for **Chancel Bells**. We meet on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. We prepare music to share in worship several times throughout the year. We will begin the new semester on October 1.

You are welcome to join **Jubilee!** We meet on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. This group of energetic young adults meets to prepare music of a variety of styles to share in worship about once a month.

Chancel Choir welcomes new members to come and rehearse on Thursday evening from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. We sing every Sunday in worship.

Contact **Don Martin** if you are interested in any of these groups.

Chancel Choir Sponsoring Concert on Sunday, October 4 at 4 p.m.

The concert will feature members of Chancel Choir singing old favorites from church music repertoire. Invite you friends to enjoy this inspirational concert. A freewill offering will be taken to help support an upcoming choir tour to Canada.

CCC Bowling League to Begin

Sign up this week for the Central Christian Church Monday Night Mixed Bowling League. A league meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th at 5:00 p.m. at Spare Time Lanes. Our non-sanctioned league will play for 16 weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 5:00 p.m. on September 21st. The cost is \$9.00 per night plus shoes if you need them. Our goal is fun and fellowship. You need not be an exemplary bowler to join us. The league is open to all high school youth and adults. Substitute bowlers will also be needed. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up the Friendship Center this Sunday.

Deficit Worsened in August

The gap between gifts to Central and the costs of carrying on Central's mission and ministry widened considerably in August. The accumulated operating deficit has ballooned from \$38,000 the previous month to over \$50,000. Acknowledgements of 2009 giving for the first two-thirds of this year were mailed to regular contributors last week. Please check your acknowledgement carefully and if you have not given all you can to support your church this year, your generous response to the church's need now will be a blessing. Please help if you are able!



Sunday, September 13, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services

Music: Offertory-Karen Driver,

Soprano; Marilyn Ward, Piano

10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir

9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic

9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.

9:30-Sunday School

9:30-Jubilee! Rehearsal

12:00-Clean Up Crew, Disciple Room

12:00-Youth Parents, Great Hall

6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian

5:30-7:00-Youth, Great Hall

Monday (14)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn

5:00-Bowling League meeting,

Spare Time

6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room &

Great Hall

Tuesday (15)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,

Senior Pastor's Study

Wednesday (16)

12:00-Central Singers

5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room

Thursday (17)

10:00-Alanon, 212

6:00-Phoenix II Open House, 2nd Floor

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (18)

9:30-Trustees, Disciple Room

6:00-Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday (19)

3:00-Sanctuary Wedding, Margaret

Soebbing & Shane Schrimpf

Counting On You

September 6

Worship Attendance 183

Sunday School Attendance 45

Serving Schedule—September 13, 2009

Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Lawrence Thicksten, Lois Whitaker
Communion to Shut-Ins:

Deacons	Elders
Janet Thicksten	Bruce Campbell
	Felicity Williams
Kathy Thornton	Jody Featherstun
Brett Swallow	Cindy Soebbing
Kelly Swallow	Robert Garrett
Aaron Osman	John McClarey
Betsy Osman	Julie Martin
Kent West	Jane Watkins
Lea West	Becky Johnston
Bev Chapman	Claudia Quigg

Deacons:

8:15 - 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
10:45 - 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:

8:15 - Team 2 - Don Tankersley, Capt., Brenda Tankersley, Frances Heiserman, Becky Johnston, Betty Scott, Dave Scott
10:45 - Team 7 - Jon French, Capt., Jane French, George Virgil, Linda Virgil, Ed Voice, Jean Voice

Parish Nurse: Jane Latshaw

Fellowship Coffee Hosts: Bill & Mary Alice Rule

Greeters:

8:15 - Bob & Chloe Hoaglin, Betty Cox, Betty Ann Roe
10:45 - Bob & Billie Harmon, Ed & Lucy Acheson

Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos
10:45 - Jessica Brooks

P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Jim Bednar
10:45 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Jean & Judson Pease, Carrie & Steve Funk, Maxine Koenig

Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Andy Fulk
Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jon Backes
10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

September 16 Visitor Mailing Crew:

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

Hosts:

Sept. 14 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle
12:30-4:00 - Betty Chapman
Sept. 15 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Byer
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*
Sept. 16 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman
12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten
Sept. 17 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher
12:30-4:00 - Janet Gray
Sept. 18 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*
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
Sean Beal	Childcare Provider
Shelly Messmore	Preschool Director
Trudy Garland, Regina Rhodes	Preschool Teachers
Wendy Jalley, Jennifer Van Dyke	Preschool Teachers
Kay Villarreal, Robin White	Preschool Teachers
David Flanders	Caretaker Supervisor
Dean Hadden	Caretaker
Charles Wallace	Caretaker

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
 650 West William Street
 Decatur, IL 62522-2326

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