



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, October 7, 2009

No. 40

## Blessed be the Lord God!

Central's annual stewardship emphasis moves now toward its climax on Sunday, October 18, when each member of our church will have the opportunity to declare an intent to support Christ's ministry and mission through our church in 2010. This week regular contributors are receiving an important letter from Stewardship Chair **Mike Holbrook** with an interesting breakdown of the level of support our families provide for the church. We hope you will be inspired and challenged by the generosity of others and will consider moving up one step on the staircase of giving. A reservation card for the all-church dinner on October 18 after second service will be in your worship bulletin this Sunday as well as in the letter you just received. Be sure to make your reservation for "Share the Blessings" Sunday, October 18. And by the way, this Sunday's sermon will not be about money!



## Elderberries to Meet Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>!

If you are at least 55 years young, we invite you to join the Elderberries for a wonderful meal and program and delightful fellowship together on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Great Hall. The menu this month will be Swiss Chicken, Sweet & Sour Green Beans, Spiced Peach, Rolls/butter and Pumpkin Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting. The food is lovingly prepared by Central's own volunteers. Cost for the meal is just \$4 per person. Following lunch, volunteers from the Macon Co. Conservation Center will present a program entitled, *Agriculture in Early Illinois*. To sign up, call the church office (428-4336) or mark "Elderberries" next to your name on the Friendship Pad this Sunday. If you think you would like to come, but are not yet sure, please go ahead and make a reservation. We would rather have food left over than not have prepared enough for everyone. Reservations need to be made before 5 p.m. on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> so reserve your place at the table today!

## FunTimers Trip to Curtis Orchard

FunTimers of all ages can sign up this Sunday for a trip to Curtis Orchard in Champaign on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. and should be back in Decatur at approximately 3:30 p.m. While at the orchard, we will eat lunch in the famous Flying Monkey Café, have time to shop in the gift shop and bakery and have opportunities to taste and purchase several different varieties of apples. We will also enjoy presentations on Bees and Pollination, Apple Processing and Apple Cider Making, along with delicious samples of apple donuts and cider. The tour and orchard are completely handicapped accessible! Cost for this trip is \$5 for the tour plus the cost of your meal ordered at the café. Sign up this Sunday in the Friendship Center.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2009**

**WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45**

**Abandoned**

Text: Psalm 22:1-11

Charles Watkins

## Mark Your Place with a Bookmark/Hookmark

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force commissioned a commemorative bookmark and a commemorative brass hookmark in celebration of our congregation's first 175 years. The bookmark is on sale for \$12, and the hookmark costs \$10. They'll make terrific Christmas gifts for people who love our church. They'll be available as we have volunteers who can sell them and through the church office.



## Choir Tour Fund Raiser - Tailgate Rummage Sale - October 10

Central Christian Chancel Choir is planning a Tailgate Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Items large and small will be sold at bargain prices. A hot dog lunch can also be purchased for \$2. All funds raised will support a planned choir tour to Canada.

If you have items you would like to donate to the sale, choir members will be accepting them at the church Friday, October 9, between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please price your articles before delivery to the church.



## Youth Column

**Central Youth**  
**Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Wiener Roast**  
**at Brittney's House**

Join us for a wiener roast at Brittney's house. We will provide the drinks, hot dogs and all the fixings. You bring chips or dessert and a friend!

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**6-8 p.m.**

**"It Was 1970**  
**Something" Disco Night**

Music and games from the 1970's. Costumes welcome! Snacks will be provided.

**Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Tailgate Party at the Millikin University Big Blue Football Game.

Times: TBA

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Central Youth will present a Choral Reading based on the Book of Job during both worship services. Several readers are needed. We will practice during Sunday School on October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Looking Ahead...**

**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ninth Annual Indoor Golf**  
**Tournament 6-8 p.m.**

## Charles's Column

A couple of months after I arrived in Decatur as your pastor seventeen years ago last week, I looked around and was amazed to realize that the President of the United States, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the President of Yale University were all younger than I. It was a shock! The torch had passed to the next generation, and I was not in it. Then a few years later came a terrible blow when I chaired the Search Committee for the Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, and the chosen candidate was also younger than I and tenderly explained to me that he was a "baby-boomer," but I was too old by five months to be included in that generation. I was superannuated before I knew it! Last Sunday a gracious greeter at the sanctuary door estimated my age at 55. Bless her heart!

Last month I got an e-mail from the President of Yale University, that youngster Richard Levin. He patiently explained that Yale University (founded in 1701 because Harvard [founded in 1636] had become too liberal) had suffered tremendous losses in the economic collapse of 2008. (Join the club!) The chief investment officer at Yale had been hailed last year in the alumni magazine as Yale's Thirteen Billion Dollar Man, because he had so hugely increased the school's endowment by that much.

President Levin explained what the University had done to reduce expenditures, eliminating "most, but not all, of the deficits previously forecast for the years ahead." Still Yale was projecting a "general appropriations deficit in the range of \$150 million each year from 2010-11 through 2013-14." Every not-for-profit enterprise I know is in deep trouble.

Being older than the chief executives of our country, our general church, our regional church, and my old school, I am delighted to tell you that our congregation's deficit is not "in the range of \$150 million." To keep perspective, our congregation's operating deficit in this extremely difficult economy is not \$100 million, not \$50 million, not even \$1 million. Our operating deficit so far in 2009 is a measly \$57,000 dollars. In that great big world of huge losses, our church is a magnificent success story. Our deficit amounts to less than \$150 per contributing family! But it is a deficit, and it means that we are operating our church day by day on borrowed money. And it means that to operate "in the black," we need to cut our ministerial staff by at least one position. Our relatively modest deficit this year means that we cannot carry on our ministry in full strength in the future. It's not good. Can you help?

*Charles Watkins*

## Living the Questions, Resumes October 20<sup>th</sup>

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer humanity. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

*Living the Questions* is for both seekers and "church alumni" convinced that Christianity still has relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. *Living the Questions* will help people of faith explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. Join **Pastor Robert** for *LTQ* for *six sessions* on **October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>** at **6:30 p.m.** in the Great Hall. Please, RSVP on Sunday morning in the Friendship Center or by emailing [rbushey@ccd-disciples.org](mailto:rbushey@ccd-disciples.org)

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Mark Kincaid** and family following the September 30<sup>th</sup> death of his father, **Jerry Kincaid**.....and to the family of **Iona E. Hohenstein** of St. Charles, Missouri, who passed away on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Birthday wishes to **Azalee Berner**, who will be 80 on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will celebrate Azalee with a birthday cake at the Fellowship Stewardship Dinner on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Note of Thanks Received

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls & especially prayers offered during my Mom's illness and passing. We felt the comfort of those prayers every day. I am so blessed to have such a caring church family.

## Pat Beals

## A Conversation on Health Care Reform

As our nation continues a public policy debate on health care reform, the Peace & Justice Task Force invites you to a forum on health care issues on **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>** from **9:30-11 a.m.** in the Great Hall. We have invited folks from Central and the community representing various points of interest in the debate. Our goal is to have a conversation based on facts and rooted in our faith. Plan to join us for this opportunity for dialogue on an important public policy discussion informed by faith.

## Now Showing at Just Flicks: *Doubt*

What a treat we have planned for you the evening of Sunday, October 11! We will view the film *Doubt* at First Presbyterian Church. This film has an all-star cast: Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, and Viola Davis were all nominated for Oscars.

And, as if the all-star cast were not enough, we have a duo of all-star discussion leaders: sister Glenda Bourgeois and Cluney John. Now about the film itself (quote adapted from Rotten Tomatoes website): *When Sister James, a hopeful innocent, shares with Sister Aloysius her guilt-inducing suspicion that Father Flynn is paying too much personal attention to a male student, Sister Aloysius sets off on a personal crusade to unearth the truth and to expunge Flynn from the school. Without a shard of proof besides her moral certainty, Sister Aloysius locks into a battle of wills with Father Flynn which threatens to tear apart the community.*

Excited? It all starts at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.



## Counting On You

### October 4

Worship Attendance ..... 294

Sunday School Attendance ..... 60



## Sunday, October 11, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Brenda Clark, Piano  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Brenda Clark, Piano  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
9:30-Fully Devoted Study, 212  
9:30-Jubilee! Rehearsal  
5:30-CCIW Annual Fund Dinner, Great Hall  
6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian  
6:30-8:30-Youth Wiener Roast, Munos's house

## Monday (12)

9:00-Volunteers to Good Samaritan Inn  
3:30-Fully Devoted Study, Disciple Rm  
5:00-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes

## Tuesday (13)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study  
2:00-Acts Bible Study, Disciple Room  
5:00-CADV, Disciple Room

## Wednesday (14)

12:00-Elderberries Lunch, Great Hall  
12:00-Central Singers  
5:45-Groups Dinner, Great Hall  
6:30-Study Groups, Disciple Room & Parlor  
7:30-Table Tennis, Great Hall

## Thursday (15)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
5:30-Spirit of Christmas Crew Party, Room 207  
6:00-Habitat Meeting, Disciple Room  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
6:00-8:00-Baby Talk Pre-K Family Fun, Great Hall  
7:00-Chancel Choir

## Saturday (17)

9:30-11:00-Health Care Forum, Disciple Room

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## Serving Schedule—October 11, 2009

### Elders:

8:15 & 10:45 - Claudia Quigg, Mike Holbrook

### Communion to Shut-Ins:

#### Deacons

Gene Garver  
Sandy Garver  
Merle Chapman  
Dennis Downey  
Al Fagin  
Chris Fagin  
Sally Force  
Dean Gray  
Janet Gray  
Brittney Munos

#### Elders

Lawrence Thicksten  
Lois Whitaker  
Kevin Miller  
Mary Jane Oliver  
Mark Beal  
Bruce Campbell  
Scott Hawbaker  
Felicity Williams  
Jody Featherstun  
Keith Backes  
Alternate: Mike Holbrook

### 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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Jim Bednar, Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar

10:45 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Katie Beal, Sean Beal, Charlotte Lyon, Barb Tyler

### Fellowship Coffee Host: Sally Force

### Greeters:

8:15 - Bob & Wanda Webb, Bill & Mary Alice Rule

10:45 - Mary Boyle, Florence Bolin, Jim & Lois Whitaker

### Acolytes:

8:15 - Brad Munos

10:45 - Jessica Brooks

### P.A. Operator:

8:15 - Greg Carter

10:45 - Keith Backes

### Preparation of Communion:

Carroll & Doris Little, Connie Ogden, Jan Patrick, Hazel Perry

### Van Drivers:

8:15 service and Sunday School - Bruce Williams

Sunday School and 10:45 service - Jon Backes

10:45 service only - Ron Oliver

**October 14 Visitor Mailing Crew:** Ruby Agnew, Joanne Gustin

### West Entrance Hosts:

Oct. 12 9:00-12:30 - Mary Boyle  
12:30-4:00 - Sally Force

Oct. 13 9:00-12:30 - Joy Adams  
12:30-4:00 - Ellen Sheffer

Oct. 14 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith  
12:30-4:00 - Marilyn Ward

Oct. 15 9:00-12:30 - Jean Booher  
12:30-4:00 - Janet Gray

Oct. 16 9:00-12:30 - Judy Ford  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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, Regina Rhodes ..... Preschool Teachers  
Wendy Jalley, Jennifer Van Dyke ..... Preschool Teachers  
Kay Villarreal, Robin White ..... Preschool Teachers  
David Flanders ..... Caretaker Supervisor  
Dean Hadden ..... Caretaker  
Crystal Thicksten ..... Caretaker  
Charles Wallace ..... Caretaker

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PERIODICAL  
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