



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, October 14, 2009

No. 41

## Millikin University Fall Concerts

You have two opportunities to hear Millikin Choirs in concert. This Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. the choirs from Millikin University will bring their inspiring music to our Sanctuary. The performances will also include an alumni choir joining the University singers. Come and be blessed.

## Share the Blessings Sunday

This Sunday, October 18, is "Share the Blessings Sunday" at Central. A Giving Card was mailed to each regular contributing member of the congregation earlier this week! You may complete it and bring it with you to worship this Sunday, or you may pick up a Giving Card in your worship bulletin this Sunday and fill it out during the service.



Then at the time of dedication following the sermon, all who wish will be invited to bring the card forward to present it as an act of worship to bless the Lord God.

The estimates on the cards will guide the Stewardship Department as they prepare the 2010 operating budget for our church next month. Your participation is essential for the success of our congregation's mission and ministries in these challenging times.

## Friendship and Greeting in a Season of Flu

Some members of our congregation are not comfortable shaking hands during this flu season. At the time of Friendship and Greeting in our service and at the sanctuary doors as you leave, feel free to extend greetings by nodding your head, speaking a word of peace, giving a wave, or extending your hand. If you do not extend your hand, no one will be offended; we all understand. Bottles of hand-sanitizer are scattered throughout the Friendship Center and the west entry.

## 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 handi-cap 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 18, 2009**

WORSHIP AT 8:15 AND 10:45

**Blessed Be the Lord God**

Text: II Corinthians 9:6-15

Charles Watkins

## Last Minute Reservations

If you have not returned your reservation card for the "Share the Blessings" luncheon after second service this Sunday, please call the church office today. Friday at noon is the final deadline for reservations.

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

*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: October 20<sup>th</sup> A Kingdom without Walls; November 3<sup>rd</sup> Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision; November 9<sup>th</sup> Incarnation: Divinely Human; November 17<sup>th</sup> Prayer: Intimacy with God; November 23<sup>rd</sup> Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry; and December 1<sup>st</sup> Creative Transformation & Embracing Divine Mystery. Please, RSVP on Sunday morning in the Friendship Center or by emailing [rbushey@cccdisciples.org](mailto:rbushey@cccdisciples.org)





## Central Youth

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

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

Music & games from the  
1970s. 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 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Looking Ahead...**  
**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ninth Annual Indoor Golf  
Tournament**



## Charles's Column

Growing up in West Texas as a member of America's first television generation, I fully expected to be a cowboy when I grew up. Yes, a cowboy and probably a gun-slinger as well. The Cisco Kid was my ideal along with his faithful sidekick ("Ohhh, Cisco! Ohhh, Pancho!") At least he was my favorite until Zorro came along, and then I knew what my future would be. I would be a caped crusader riding to the rescue of beautiful maidens, challenging all corrupt authorities, making buffoons of villains, and saving whole towns from oppression by evil men.

Everyone in the town was terrorized into quiet submission while the bad guys abused every upstanding person and destroyed many chairs and tables in saloons. The villains would be boasters full of arrogance and always prepared for senseless violence. They had no respect for anyone and showed no kindness, not even to horses or dogs. They were abusive toward floozies. Seldom has art or literature portrayed such unredeemable selfishness and meanness. But Zorro rode into town on his beautiful and well-cared for black stallion and literally whipped the place into shape in a dramatic showdown, sometimes at high noon.

*Share the Blessings* Sunday is an opportunity for each of us to have a dramatic showdown with ourselves, to have our most idealistic and generous self ride in to confront our own self-centeredness. It is an opportunity to reach down deep for our truest, best selves and take a sacrificial stand for what we believe is really the most important work in the world: proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and the amazing grace of God.

*Share the Blessings* Sunday is our opportunity to bless each other, to bless our church, to bless all those who are served by our varied ministries, and to *Bless the Lord God*. We often think that blessings flow one way: from God to us. We are the grateful takers. But we bless God when we honor the values that God cares about and when we support the work that God wants to accomplish in this world. We bless the Lord God when we determine to be givers, imitating our generous God.

This Sunday I will confront my own selfish heart with all the resources of my most faithful and idealistic vision of who I want to be, who I wish I were, an open and generous giver who blesses the Lord God.

*Charles Watkins*

## Chancel Choir Thanks You!

Thank you to all who helped to make the Tailgate Rummage Sale a great success. We are grateful for the support that you have shown to the choir as we continue to raise money for our tour next summer. Be watching for more opportunities to help.

## Disciples Class Open House, October 18

We've recently donned a new look in the Disciples Classroom (thanks to all who helped clean, paint and redecorate). We're happy with the brightened new feel in the room and we invite you to visit (or return to) the Disciples Sunday School class for an Open House on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments followed by a sample lesson.

**Randy Brooks** is our main teacher, leading lively, interactive discussions based on scriptures from the lectionary calendar each week. (And yes, his laugh is contagious!) Please join us on the 18<sup>th</sup>, or whenever you can. We hope you'll consider joining our Sunday School family.

## News From the Pews....

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Lynn & Duane Potter** and family following the October 8<sup>th</sup> death of Lynn's mother, **Mary Helmle** .....to **Charlie & Norma Brown**, following the death of their son, **Charles Frederick Brown** on October 11.....to **Roy O. Schilling, Susan & Mike Bryant, Matthew & Erica Bryant**, and **Mary Schilling** following the October 11<sup>th</sup> death of Roy's brother, **Harold W. Schilling** of Elkhart .....and to the family and friends of **Aileen Hays**, who died on October 11.

Congratulations to **Mary Jane Linton** who will be inducted into the membership of the Illinois State University College of Education Hall of Fame on October 17.

Birthday congratulations to **Azalee Berner**, whose birthday is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will celebrate Azalee with a birthday cake at the Fellowship Stewardship Dinner this Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Mark Your Place with a Bookmark/Bookmark

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.



## Tutoring Opportunities at Hope Academy

Through our One Church One School relationship with Hope Academy, we have been invited to volunteer to tutor students, mostly 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, who need assistance with reading and some math. Tutors will work with students during the school day and with the supervision of a classroom teacher. If you are interested in tutoring at Hope Academy, contact **Pastor Robert**.

## A Conversation on Health Care Reform

As our nation continues a public policy debate on health care reform, the Peace & Justice Task Force invite you to a forum on health care issues this **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.



### Sunday, October 18, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Jubilee!; John Baird,  
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-Fully Devoted Study, 212  
9:30-Jubilee! Rehearsal  
12:00-Stewardship Celebration Fellowship Sunday Dinner, Great Hall  
2:00 & 4:00-Millikin Fall Concerts, Sanctuary  
6:00-8:00-Youth Disco Night

### Monday (19)

3:00-Fully Devoted Study, Disciple Rm  
5:00-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes  
6:30-Boy Scouts, Disciple Room & Great Hall

### Tuesday (20)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting, Senior Pastor's Study  
6:00-Decatur Education Coalition, Great Hall  
6:30-Living the Questions, Disciple Rm

### Wednesday (21)

12:00-Central Singers  
5:30-Church Council, Disciple Room  
5:45-Groups Dinner, Great Hall  
6:30-World Outreach, Disciple Room  
6:30-Study Groups, Welcome Center & Parlor  
7:30-Table Tennis, Great Hall

### Thursday (22)

10:00-Alanon, 212  
10:30-3:30-Fun Timers Trip to Curtis Orchard  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### Saturday (24)

Youth Tailgate Party at Millikin  
Football Game

## Counting On You

### October 11

Worship Attendance ..... 272  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 53

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**Serving Schedule—October 18, 2009**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Randy Brooks, Connie Bordner

**Deacons:**

8:15 - 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

10:45 - 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:**

8:15 - 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

**Greeters:**

8:15 - Frances Heiserman, Ann Harshman, Charlie & Nicole Ropp

10:45 - David & Katie Miller, Bob & Mary Jane Linton

**Parish Nurse:** Liz Campbell

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Gail & Larry Prince

**Acolytes:**

8:15 - Julia Funk

10:45 - Joshua Bushey

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Donna Dash

10:45 - Larry Pepper

**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 - Kevin Wilmot,

10:45 service only - Richard Ward,

**October 21 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Joanne Gustin, Marge Karl

**West Entrance Hosts:**

Oct. 19 9:00-12:30 - Jim & Pru Rogers

12:30-4:00 - Donna Strong

Oct. 20 9:00-12:30 - Barbara Beyer

12:30-4:00 - Jean Pease

Oct. 21 9:00-12:30 - Marylu Lyman

12:30-4:00 - Sally Thicksten

Oct. 22 9:00-12:30 - Evelyn Sperry

12:30-4:00 - Charlotte Lyon

Oct. 23 9:00-12:30 - Yvonne Purcell

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  
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  
Crystal Thicksten ..... Caretaker  
Charles Wallace ..... Caretaker

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**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

