



# The Central Visitor

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

Vol. LXXXII

Decatur, Illinois, October 21, 2009

No. 42

## Dorcas Disciples to Visit Decatur Women's Correctional Facility

Dorcas Disciples are women of prayer and women of service. This month we will set prayer into action and visit the Decatur Women's Correctional Facility to work with Chaplain Carolyn Wagner on ways we can assist women in the Moms and Babies program as they move forward in their lives. The group who turned in clearance forms will visit the facility at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27th. Those wishing to ride together, please be at the church at 12:30.

At our regular 7:00 p.m. meeting in Central's Disciple Room, we will gather to find ways we can combine our efforts and resources to celebrate how prayers become answered in the living of our faith.

We still have Blessing Boxes to distribute and toiletry items to collect for Oasis. May we encourage others not to give up on prayer when it becomes difficult to see the use of praying. When we find obstacles in our path, we can continue to hope, prayer and move forward.

## Share the Blessing

Last Sunday many faithful members and friends stepped forward to present their giving cards in support of our congregation's mission and ministries in



2010. If you missed the opportunity to participate, you will receive a letter this week inviting you to join your witness to those who have committed their support. Please take this opportunity in a difficult year to help ensure our congregation's future effectiveness. Each of

us must do our very best for our church.

## Mike Bryant Prints Available for Purchase

Look for a display in the friendship center this Sunday, October 25. There are two types of prints from which to choose. One has a high quality paper and ink and will be a limited edition numbered and signed by the artist. It will sell for \$40. The other is the same image on different paper and will sell for \$20. **Order your copies on November 1 and 8 in the Friendship Center.** The original painting will be available during a silent auction coming up in November. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the Chancel Choir Tour 2010. Contact **Don Martin** for more information.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009**

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

**The Faith of Job**

Text: Selections from Job

Robert Bushey, Jr.



## Peart Announces Retirement

Leslie Peart, Central's stellar organist for the last twelve years, has announced his retirement to the Texas Gulf Coast. He has delayed his departure for two years because of you, the wonderful instrument he plays, and the pleas of the senior pastor. He has been an accomplished church organist for fifty years. Les will present a farewell concert in our sanctuary on November 15 at 4:30 p.m. Invite your friends to attend!

The search has begun for an organist for our church. If you have a candidate in mind, please phone the church office today.

## 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**.



## Central Youth

**Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tailgate Party**  
at the  
**Millikin University**  
**Big Blue Football Game**

Meet at the practice field near Oakland Ave. at 11:30 a.m. Game starts at 1 p.m. Bring \$3 for game ticket.

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Central Youth will present a Choral Reading based on the Book of Job during both worship services. Readers should be at the church by 7:15 a.m. for microphone check.

### Looking Ahead...

**Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Central Youth will gather in the Youth Room for a regular meeting. We will be discussing our holiday plans and we will ask the question, "How does someone become a saint?"

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



## Robert's Reflections

Recently, Teri and I were fortunate to attend the *Midnight at the Oasis* celebration and fundraiser at the newly renovated Knights of Columbus hall downtown. We were invited in part because Central Christian Church was a recipient of an award in the form of a beautiful crystal bowl, for being one of the top three supporting religious organizations for the Oasis Day Center for the homeless, which opened ten years ago. I have been blessed to represent you on the Oasis Advisory Board since 1998 when our congregation gave Oasis - then just a vision of a marvelous collaboration of folks - a major gift from undesignated bequest funding. One of the highlights of the evening for me was when my tablemate, Grady Wilkinson, former CEO of Heritage and visionary of the day center, looked at me and said, "Can you believe, ten years?" Grady and I met many times back in 1998/1999 when we were searching for funds to operate the day center. We met with a handful of influential business folks in Decatur, took them on tours of the then store-front operation, and shared the vision of a safe day shelter that welcomes folks unconditionally and offers them opportunities to connect with services to improve their lives. I may have been young, naive and overly optimistic about the community's care for the homeless in the early years of the center, but it worked. I have always thought of Oasis as an example of how Isaiah's vision is made real in our midst: *"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing...Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there."* (Isaiah 35)

Oasis is a blossom in a desert of despair for so many folks who get lost along the way in our self-service society, where community health and wealth often rank far behind the improvement of one's own status. In the midst of dangerous life intersections and super-highways, Oasis is a safe way for so many who are vulnerable prey for those who choose to condemn and exploit others for their own personal benefit. Oasis is an example of the gospel of serving others. We are truly the redeemed when we seek to serve rather than to be served, when our faith is as much about communal well-being as it is about personal salvation, when we no longer participate in self-service Christianity.

In worship this Sunday several youth will help us hear again the story of God's servant Job, the appointed Old Testament lectionary texts for each Sunday in October. We will reflect on the purpose of our faith in God and we will hear again of God's undying love for each and every one of us. With all the challenges that we observe or attempt to endure every day, we may have difficulty finding our own oasis of comfort, renewal and restoration. Come, and seek an oasis of God's care for you in worship this week.

Peace & Joy

**Robert**

## News from the pews....

Theresa Churchill Fulk has a new blog on the Herald & Review's Web site, and the one going up at 1 p.m. Thursday talks about Dean Hadden's 50th anniversary surprise for his wife Joel. You can read that and other blogs by Theresa at <http://herald-review.com/app/blogs/theresachurchill/>

## Notes of Thanks

My family & I sincerely thank the ministers, members, and friends for telephone calls, cards and attending visitation & funeral services for my brother, Harold.  
*Roy O. Schilling*

Thank you to Keith Backes, Shirley Swarthout and their volunteers for working with my daughter, Lori, to make my birthday special.

*Azalee Berner*

## Mission Trip to Slidell, Louisiana - March 14-20, 2010

Plans are gearing up for our Mission trip to Slidell, Louisiana next spring, March 14-20th. These dates coincide with spring break at Millikin University. During our week in Louisiana, we will be helping to blitz build a community center at First Christian Church, continuing work that will begin in February. Susan Lasalle, pastor at First Christian in Slidell writes, "We see the new building as an extension of the rebuilding efforts here in our community post-Katrina to be a balm of healing and a beacon of hope in our community. The purpose of the building is to expand our opportunities for reaching out to our changed community. We hope to utilize the space for opportunites such as ESL and parenting classes, hosting seminars about issues pertinent to our community, provide necessary meeting space for non-profit groups, ministry to the elderly and a host of other needs. The possibilities are endless." If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity, please contact Pastor Gretchen for more information (428-4336 or [gbarron@cccdisciples.org](mailto:gbarron@cccdisciples.org)). A planning and orientation meeting will be scheduled in November.

## Dorcas Disciples Go High Tech!

For a limited time, Dorcas Disciples are selling some fund-raising items online! Copies of *A Taste of Heaven Cookbook* and sets of Central notecards are now available by going to our website at [www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org). The cookbooks and a supplement entitled *Bread & Breakfast* cost just \$15 each. Sets of twelve (12) glossy notecards (and envelopes) featuring full-color views of our West Entrance, Building and Sanctuary sell for just \$10 each. By ordering online, you have the option to pick them up locally at the church or have them sent to you for an additional postage fee. Purchase of these items help fund the mission and ministry of the Dorcas Disciples. These items would make great gifts for Christmas or anytime. Selling online is a great way for former members and grown children who have moved away to take advantage of these unique Central items.

## Counting On You

### October 18

Worship Attendance ..... 237  
Sunday School Attendance ..... 67



## Sunday, October 25, 2009

8:15 and 10:45-Worship Services  
Music: Offertory-Mike Grittani, Cello;  
Rachel West, Piano  
8:15 Anthem-Central Singers; Marilyn  
Ward, Piano  
10:45 Anthem-Chancel Choir; Michael  
Engelhardt, Solo; Marily Ward, Piano  
9:00-9:45-Parish Nurse Clinic  
9:15-Fellowship Coffee, Friendship Ctr.  
9:30-Sunday School  
9:30-Jubilee! Rehearsal  
9:30-Fully Devoted Study, 212

## Monday (26)

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

## Tuesday (27)

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207  
10:00-Pastors' Staff Meeting,  
Senior Pastor's Study  
1:00-Dorcas, Women's Correctional  
Facility  
5:30-Personnel Department, Parlor  
7:00-Dorcas Meeting, Disciple Room

## Wednesday (28)

12:00-Central Singers  
2:00-Acts Bible Study, Disciple Room  
5:30-Preschool Board, Room 290  
5:45-Groups Dinner, Great Hall  
6:30-Study Groups, Welcome Center &  
Parlor  
7:30-Table Tennis, Great Hall

## Thursday (29)

10:00-Alanon, Room 212  
5:30-CACS Dept., Disciple Room  
6:00-Chancel Bells  
6:00-Evangelism Dept., Volunteer Rm.  
7:00-Chancel Choir

---

---

**Serving Schedule—October 25, 2009**

**Elders:**

8:15 & 10:45 - Dick Cain, Jo Carter

**Elders Serving Hospital Communion:**

**St. Mary's Hospital:** John McClarey

**Decatur Memorial:** Robert Garrett

**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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Debbie Downey, Tina Canfield, Paula Hovey, Connie Schabowski

10:45 - Team 8 - Pamela Ferguson, Doug Soebbing, Donna Strong

**Greeters:**

8:15 - Mary Kincaid, Donna Dash, Norman & Darla Lienemann

10:45 - Glen & Jody Featherstun, Jim & Lois Whitaker

**Acolytes:**

8:15 - Bobby Munos

10:45 - Austin Econie

**Fellowship Coffee Hosts:** Mike & Susan Bryant

**P.A. Operator:**

8:15 - Jim Bednar

10:45 - Jim Hinze

**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 - Keith Backes

10:45 service only - Richard Ward

**October 28 Visitor Mailing Crew:**

Joanne Gustin, Betty McKown

**West Entrance Hosts:**

Oct. 26 9:00-12:30 - *Help Needed*  
12:30-4:00 - Florence Bolin

Oct. 27 9:00-12:30 - Gail Prince  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

Oct. 28 9:00-12:30 - Virginia Griffith  
12:30-4:00 - Ruby Agnew

Oct. 29 9:00-12:30 - Dee Hill  
12:30-4:00 - *Help Needed*

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

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
**Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700**  
**HTTP://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG**  
**e-mail: [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto: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, Regina Rhodes ..... Preschool Teachers  
Wendy Jalley, Janet Langston ..... Preschool Teachers  
Jennifer Van Dyke ..... Preschool Teacher  
Kay Villarreal, Robin White ..... Preschool Teachers  
David Flanders ..... Caretaker Supervisor  
Dean Hadden ..... Caretaker  
Crystal Thicksten ..... 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

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

