



# Central Connections

*175 years... and still a frontier church*

Volume 44 Issue 8

A Sign of God's Kingdom in the Heart of the City

August 26, 2009

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Worship: Sundays @ 10:30am  
 Study: Sundays @ 9:00am  
 Study: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Dear friends,

It's been a full summer. Personally, I've spent some time with my parents in Kansas City and helped Isaac get started in kindergarten. Many have had time away, while others have worked away, or looked for work, or moved, or taken care of someone. Together, we welcomed a great crowd during the General Assembly – perhaps not the 5000 that Jesus preached to, but it almost felt like that! (Thank you once again to Julie Miller and Terry Bradbury and the *many, many* folks who helped in so many ways before and on that day).

Summer is not quite over, though that's hard for those of us with children in school to remember, especially when I sit outside in the early morning wrapped up in a blanket. On Sunday I shared a few lines from a poem by Mary Oliver entitled "The Summer Day." Here's the whole poem, which I offer for your late summer reflection.

Who made the world?  
 Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
 Who made the grasshopper?  
 This grasshopper, I mean –  
 the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
 the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
 who is moving her jaws back and forth rather than up and down –  
 who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
 into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
 how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
 which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?  
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
 with your one wild and precious life?

Kneeling down in the grass in my near east side neighborhood would certainly bring inquiries from my neighbors. But whatever the form, I wish for myself and for you some time, however long or brief, to be "idle and blessed," and to celebrate this wild and precious life God has given us.

Blessings,  
 Linda

Thank you so much for the meaningful Sunday worship service during General Assembly. It certainly was one of the highlights of the week!...I have the CD and have listened to it several times. Please thank all your many volunteers and the staff for all the extra work of hosting us. When the Assembly was in Seattle, we in Kent were part of the hosting team and I remember how much HARD work all of that was. It appeared that everything was done and done well, as Fred would say.

Marvin Eckfeldt, Retired Minister

## Now Equipped for Heart-Stopping Worship

Our church now has an AED (automated external defibrillator) located in the corner of fellowship hall nearest the sacristy. The cabinet is alarmed to prevent theft of this expensive piece of equipment.

In the near future we will offer information for those who wish to become first responders here at Central. This training will give you CPR and AED certification. We are blessed to have five nurses who attend worship regularly. However, we hope to have a few more people able to use the equipment in case of emergency.

(By the way, we were wondering which child would set off the alarmed cabinet first. It was Jerry Nickel...)

## 2008-2009 Goals

A year ago the Ministry Coordination Council established three goals for the church year that ended June 30. Here is a brief report on these goals.

Goal #1 was that 75% of the congregation would be involved in the life of the church beyond Sunday morning worship attendance. That goal was met and exceeded. By year-end, 81% of the congregation was active in some way in addition to worship attendance.

On the other two goals we fell a bit short. Goal #2 was to increase worship attendance by 10%, and our attendance actually decreased by 2.7%, from 111 in 2007-2008 to 108 in 2008-2009.

Goal #3 was a 10% increase in giving, as measured by contributions not including designated gifts or special day offerings. While we did not reach our goal, there was an increase of 6.1% (from \$185,893 to \$197,234), a blessing in these difficult economic times.



Regardless of our politics, we remember and pray for the families of those who died in military service since the last newsletter. We also remember the countless innocents from every nation who have died in war whose names we will never know.

Herberth A. Berrios-Campos, 21  
Johnny Roosevelt Polk, 39  
Keiffer P. Wilhelm, 19  
Richard A. Walters Jr., 41  
Matthew D. Hastings, 23  
William Z. Vanosdol, 23

***“In war, there are no  
unwounded soldiers.”***

***Jose Narosky***



## **Keepers of the Ark September 12 8:00 to Whenever**

Another opportunity to join the Keepers of the Ark is scheduled for Saturday, September 12. With the big push to welcome our General Assembly Guest over, we are focusing on the needed tasks to maintain the church and its grounds. There is a wide variety of jobs requiring a wide variety of skills – and some jobs requiring no skills! Come join us for breakfast and devotions at 8:00am. Work begins at 9:00am and goes until 12:00 noon. If you can't commit for the entire morning, drop by for an hour or two. See you Saturday, September 12! (Contact: Terry Bradbury)

## **A Weekend to End Breast Cancer**

On September 26-27, at least four Centralites will be involved in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer, an awareness and fundraising event for the St. Vincent Foundation. Participants will walk 38 miles over two days, and money raised goes to breast cancer research or to the direct support of breast cancer patients. To support this effort, contact one of these walkers: Kathy Harting, Miki Mathioudakis, Julie Miller, or Susan Nickel.

## **The Matchmakers Have Arrived!**

Contact: Jennifer Riggs or Lydia Brasher

The Volunteer Ministry Team has secured the services of several people to act as matchmakers for the members and friends of Central Christian Church and the various Ministry Teams. The purpose of the group is to develop relationships with our newer (and not so new) members to discern what their interests and passions are. In turn the Matchmakers will pass this information to the Ministry Teams. Our goal is twofold, to develop leadership and to involve more people in the different ministries at Central. Dan Mosley is working with us on the leadership development strand. The following people have agreed to be Matchmakers: Sandy Heidenreich, Twyla Cecil, Steve Cecil, Miki Mathioudakis, Jackie Miller, Jerry Nickel, and Michael Dodds. When you see these friends around please engage them in conversation -- we want to know what you are thinking. For additional information contact Jennifer Riggs or Lydia Brasher.



## **Heavy Rains Inundate Portions of Taiwan**

Contact: [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

Over the weekend of August 7-9 Typhoon Morakot triggered the worst flooding in Taiwan in 50 years. In just two days, the storm dumped the equivalent of a year's worth of rain - more than 80 inches - before moving on to China and displacing over a million people there. One entire village in the south of Taiwan was consumed by a mudslide. Many are confirmed dead, others are missing, and, thankfully, several hundred have been rescued. The flooding is devastating to the country's agriculture. The clean-up will be tremendous; representatives from Global Ministries' partner, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, write, "it will be necessary to monitor and control any infections that could arise from dirty water, debris, dead animals and so on." Week of Compassion, in partnership with the East Asia & Pacific area office of Global Ministries, has sent an initial grant of \$2,500 to assist with immediate aid. WoC will also respond to any appeals received from Church World Service for further relief and recovery.

## **North to Alaska**

A group of 17 Disciples volunteers answered the call made two weeks ago to accompany Carl Zerweck, Director of Disciples Volunteering, to Eagle, Alaska, to aid in flood recovery. For the next three weeks, they will labor in a remote part of the state that was devastated by a spring thaw. Please remember them and the residents of the Eagle community in your thoughts and prayers.



## Sponsoring Worship Flowers

Contact: Sandy Heidenreich, Office Administrator

Members and friends of Central are invited to sponsor the Sunday worship flowers. A sign-up sheet by date is posted on the bulletin board by the church office along with donor slips. Just complete the slip along with your check in the amount of \$35 made payable to: Central Christian Church with "worship – flowers" noted in the memo line. The donor slip and payment may be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday or delivered to the church office.



## Theological Reflection on Immigration Resource Group on CD

The Refugee and Immigration Ministries General Assembly Resource Group "Theological Reflection on Immigration" is available on CD. Presenters, in the order of their presentations, on the CD are:

- Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA;
- Jennifer Riggs, Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries, DHM;
- Joel Saucedo, Seminary Student, Brite Divinity School and Global Ministries Intern;
- Tim Lee, Assistant Professor of Church History, Brite Divinity School; and
- Eric Brown, Senior Pastor, Woodland Christian Church, Columbus, Ohio.

An order form for the CD at a cost of \$10 plus shipping is available at <http://greenhill-productions.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/DOC-09-online-order-form.pdf>. The CD is #26 on the form.

Additional theological reflections from some of these same presenters are available at <http://www.discipleshomeissions.org/RIM/WelcomePledge.htm>.



## Let your voice be heard

Are you part of Disciples Home Mission's (DHM) Rapid Response network? If not, do consider being a part of this work. By joining, you will receive periodic updates about actions you can take in response to legislative actions. As action alerts and legislative bulletins come in from various sources, DHM staff will send you information. Then you can choose to write, call, or e-mail your legislator and local media to express your opinion. That's all there is to it! You participate whenever you want and as frequently as you want. <http://www.discipleshomeissions.org/rapidresponse/>

## Lectionary Scripture



August 30

- \* Song of Solomon 2:8-13
- \* Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
- \* James 1:17-27
- \* Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 6

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
- Psalm 125
- James 2:1-10, 14-17
- Mark 7:24-37

September 13

- Proverbs 1:20-33
- Psalm 19
- James 3:1-12
- Mark 8:27-38

September 20

- Proverbs 31:10-31
- Psalm 1
- James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
- Mark 9:30-37

September 27

- Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
- Psalm 124
- James 5:13-20
- Mark 9:38-50

## GROWING UP FAST!

In September, Monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates. In God's wonderful design, these butterflies have gone through an amazing transformation. This craft will remind you of the ongoing transformation that God has planned for you, too.

### What you need:

- Clear, one-gallon zipper baggie (with no writing)
- Colored tissue paper
- Scissors
- Wooden, one-piece clothespin
- Pipe cleaner
- Black permanent marker
- Glue and wiggly eyes (optional)
- Magnet tape

### What you do:

1. Turn the baggie inside out and rub it on your head to create static cling. Then turn the baggie right-side-out again.
2. Cut tissue paper into 2" x 2" squares.
3. Fill the baggie with tissue squares.
4. Press excess air out of the bag and zip it. Lay the baggie on its side (this will form the butterfly's wings) so the zipper is at the top.
5. Pinch the baggie with the clothespin so it divides the baggie into two equal parts to create the butterfly's head and body.
6. Thread the pipe cleaner through the hole atop the clothespin to form the antennae.
7. With a permanent marker, write "Romans 12:2" on the bottom half of the clothespin.
8. Draw on eyes (or glue on wiggly eyes).
9. Attach a strip of magnet tape to the back of the clothespin. Then display the butterfly on your refrigerator.



It's the beginning of a new school year, and you'll be growing and changing every day. Below is an important lesson that God wants you to remember.

Color in the letter boxes that have an asterisk (\*).

Then write the letters that are left on the lines below to finish Romans 12:2.

c	h*	o	n	d*	f	t*	q*	o	s*	r	a*	b*	r*	m
x*	p	j*	e*	a	t	m*	t	o*	c*	p*	e	r	k*	n
w	d*	o	s*	r*	j*	r	g*	l	b*	l*	i*	n*	d	y*
t	r	i*	a	t*	n	s	r*	f	o	r	v*	m	e	d
r	d*	e	n	h*	s*	o*	e	r*	w	i	t*	n	m*	g
c*	a*	m	b*	u*	i	p*	z*	n	j*	r*	d	y*	o*	u*
a*	r*	s*	t	e	o*	w*	s	k*	v*	f*	l*	t	e*	a*
a	p	e*	r*	p	i*	r	g*	o	n*	v	h*	j*	p*	e
n*	o*	G	b*	i*	o	s*	d	a*	l*	l*	s	e*	t*	h*
s*	p	l	m*	e	y*	a	s	o*	r*	i	n	c*	g	n*
p	e	t*	i*	r	f	w*	t*	e	m*	l*	c	d*	a*	t

"Do not \_\_\_\_\_ any longer to the \_\_\_\_\_  
of this \_\_\_\_\_, but be \_\_\_\_\_  
by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_. Then you will be able  
to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ what \_\_\_\_\_ will is — his good,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will." *Romans 12:2, NIV*

Answers: conform, pattern, world, transformed, renewing, mind, rest, approve, God's, pleasing, perfect



## Latin America Working Group Announces Day of Action for Cuba on September 30, 2009

"Fifty years is enough already! It's time to end this legacy of isolation and time to start engaging our neighbor. We've been pressuring Congress to end the travel ban, but we'll need your help to push it over the edge. We're organizing a National Day of Action called CubaGO! Strategically-identified delegations from across the country will be coming to DC to meet with their members of Congress. But in order to really make an impact, the delegations will need back-up from you. That is why we're encouraging you and to "Call in for Cuba!" Save the date, September 30th, to organize to End the Travel Ban! To read more about how you and your congregation can be involved, click here:

<http://globalministries.org/news/lac/national-day-of-action-for.html>



## Fridge Over Troubled Water

Reprinted from [tips@greenpieceindy.com](mailto:tips@greenpieceindy.com)

When your fridge is on the fritz, the last thing you want to worry about is how and where to haul it once it finally goes kaput. From an environmental perspective, repairing an older item is typically preferable to buying new (unless, of course, said item is an energy-sucking beast). Just remember: When you're ready to replace household appliances, don't simply discard the old ones. In addition to clogging our landfills, many of these items contain toxic chemicals, such as lead, mercury, and Freon, which can pollute the air, soil, and water supply, not to mention posing serious health hazards.

Instead, we suggest calling [Disposal Alternatives Organization, https://applianceremovers.com/Home\\_Page.htm](https://applianceremovers.com/Home_Page.htm) which offers [Indianapolis area residents](#) free household appliance removal and recycling. From water heaters to washers and dryers, DAO recycles or, in some cases, refurbishes old appliances, then resells them at low costs in their storefront at 38th Street and I-465. Items may be dropped off at [DAO's eastside or westside locations](#). Or, simply call to schedule a free removal.

## GREENLESS CHILD by Ann Weems

*I watched her go uncelebrated into Head Start,  
A greenless child,  
Gray among the orange and yellow,  
Attached too much to corners and to other people's sunshine.  
She colors the rainbow brown  
And leaves balloons unopened in their packages.  
Oh, who will touch this greenless child?  
Who will plant alleluias in her heart  
And send her dancing into all the colors of God?  
Or will she be left like an unwrapped package on the kitchen table—  
Too dull for anyone to take the trouble?  
Does God think we're her keeper?*



Elders Retreat  
This Saturday, August 29  
9am - noon  
Christian Theological  
Seminary, Rm. 127



**young**  
disciples

Young Disciples  
Training/Social  
This Sunday, August 30  
following worship  
Conference Room  
Lunch provided

Newsletter submissions may be left in the church office or by eMailing [newsletter@indyccc.org](mailto:newsletter@indyccc.org). We welcome articles, notes of congratulations or concern, biographical sketches... anything for the good of the church family.

**Deadline for  
next newsletter  
September 27**



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