

The Christian Chronicle

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

100 North Houston Road

Warner Robins, GA 31093

(478) 923-1536

fcc_wr@juno.com

www.fcc-wr.org

Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00

Nov. 2006 Number 11

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Greg Holmes, Music Director



Now that November has arrived, its crunch time. The year is wrapping up, the holidays are almost

upon us, the Regional Assembly will occur and we will either travel or welcome guests for Thanksgiving. Can I get it all done?????

Now that I have increased your stress levels by at least a factor of 10, let me give you a pause to breathe deeply and exhale and then give thanks to God that much is happening.

Be grateful that you have the opportunities that are before you, but remember why you are taking them on. We are getting near the end of another year. We have seen beauty and we have seen tragedy. We have offered assistance and we have received help. We rejoice for every new day we get to share with friends and family. We remember all those wonderful people who have been a part of our lives. Now let us look forward to the new things that God will do today and tomorrow and the new challenges that God will place on our path.

Advent begins on the first Sunday of December. This year the celebration of Advent will begin and end in the same month. Plan this year not only around your family traditions but also around the focus of caring for all life. After all, we are celebrating the anticipated birth of Jesus. Why not demonstrate it by caring for those living around you. Good news is coming. Live like you truly believe that the Good News is for you.

Our Regional church will gather at Epworth By The Sea this month to plan for our future. This event reminds us that we are not just the people who gather at 100 N. Houston Rd., but that we are part of a church that reaches around the state and around the world. If you can spare an evening or a couple of days, come to Epworth and be blessed by sharing time with your brothers and sisters from around Georgia. How better to prepare for Thanksgiving than by seeing a part of the greater church gathered together in worship, work and play.

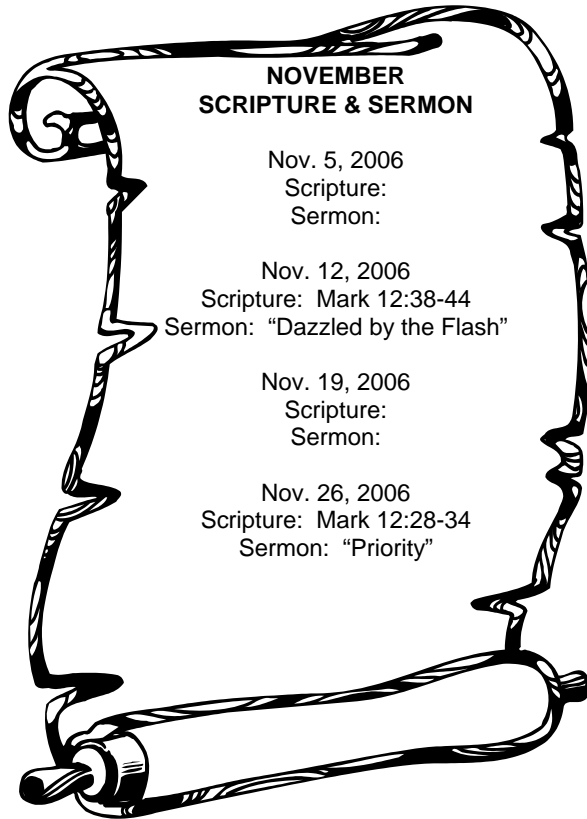
Make a list, starting today of all the things for which you can give thanks this year. Include anything and everything that comes to mind. For instance, by Thanksgiving, all the political ads will be over. Seriously, take a pen and paper and begin a list. Add things as they come to mind. It might become such a source of joy and thanksgiving that you continue the practice into the next month or the next year. It is so easy to focus on the pains and the problems, so lets adjust our vision to see the good and beauty in the world around us and give thanks to God.

My optometrist had me try something new. When I saw him in September, he had me wear only one contact. He adjusted the vision in my right eye with a lens so that I could see things at a distance. My uncorrected eye would be used for reading. He indicated that for some people, the brain will adjust the information coming in and you will hardly notice the lack of one lens. Going into my third month, I can affirm his statement. My brain has adapted to this new way.

So will your brain adapt to seeing the blessings from God first. This will not make your life any easier. It will not solve every problem which might arise. It will improve your disposition, increase your sense of hope and allow you to more fully walk with God.

This month smile a little more, laugh more often and give thanks freely.

Shalom, Darrell



NOVEMBER ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled for the month of November are: Elders – Curtis Scaggs and Mary Jane Rogers and Deacons – Laurie Cook, Chris Rogers, and Evelyn Carroll.



CMF BREAKFAST

The October men's breakfast was held on

October 21st in the Fellowship Hall. Those attending enjoyed one of David and Ann Von Almen's delicious breakfasts. Afterwards people gathered to clean up the church yard, sanctuary and other rooms. The next men's breakfast will be held on Dec. 2nd.



CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

39 gallon trash bags
Coffee



A NOTE ABOUT OUR NEXT YARD SALE

We are not accepting any computers or printers or other computer items for the yard sale. They take up lots of room to store and to display and the items do not sell well. If you wish, you can take them to the Good Will or Salvation Army. Thank you.



Feed My Sheep

Our church helps support the local food pantry with non-perishable food items each month. The food pantry helps about 90 families each week. In July we gave 50 pounds of food.

In Aug. we gave 30 pounds of food.

In Sep. we gave 72 pounds of food.

Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on September 13th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Carl Shaw, Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Lois Crawford and Russ & Judy Cooper. The next meeting will be on Nov. 8th at Ole' Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



HYMNS WE SING

Being a church musician, I dearly love the hymns we sing. Over the next few months I'll be writing small vignettes about some of my most beloved hymns. I encourage you to "check out" our hymnals. In the articles I will give you the title, hymn number, and a reference scripture. I hope that you enjoy these little hymnody lessons.

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is on page number 65 in the **CHALICE HYMNAL**. I like to use Psalm 46:1 as the reference scripture: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. This hymn was written by Martin Luther, 1483-1536. Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic priest who was to become a great reformer, a person who brought about radical change within the church. Martin Luther's most notable gift to the world was "the priesthood of ALL believers." At this time in history most were Catholics, so they had to go to the priest instead of God for forgiveness. Through Martin's study of the scriptures, he read that we all are able to go, and speak directly to God for forgiveness and many things that touch our hearts.

Luther angered many when he nailed his "Ninety-five Thesis: to the door of the church. The leaders of the Roman Catholic church condemned him as a wicked and false teacher; thus leading to a trial and imprisonment. Through the work of God and friends, Luther escaped prison dressed as a knight. After his escape he stated, "I'll translate the Bible into language that all men can read therefore understanding the word of God for themselves." Through all of Martin's trials, he kept his faith in God realizing that God is a mighty fortress, and all whom are under God's care will be helped. Though all earth seems against us there is none on earth equal to God. *Greg*



CWF GRACE GROUP

The Grace Group met on Thursday, Oct. 19th. Eight ladies attended. The study and worship program was about "Abundance – Putting our Resources to Work " and presented by Lois Crawford. Afterwards, the ladies enjoyed refreshments that were provided by Winona Smith. All ladies in the church are invited to join us each month for very insightful programs and great fellowship.

COUPLES CHRISTMAS NIGHT OUT



All couples (married or dating) are invited to the drop-in at Ben and Doreen Campbell's home.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend on Saturday night, December 9th between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Every couple is asked to bring one finger food and one dessert. If anyone would like to provide drinks (coffee, hot chocolate, sodas) please let Doreen know. You need to bring a coffee maker or borrow one from the church. As we celebrate the gift of our Lord's birth, we would like to also **GIVE** a gift. Instead of exchanging gifts with each other, please bring \$10 per couple to donate to our special Christmas family.

Thank you, Ben and Doreen for graciously opening up your home. If anyone needs directions, call one of the Campbell crew. Hope to see you there!



A word of Thanks

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

A big "Thank You" goes to Phil & Jerri Bosarge, Doreen & Kyle Campbell, Norbert Duncan, Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Wayne Scaggs, Charlie & Jo Smith, Tommy Scissons & James Layfield, Brenda & Dennie McReynolds, Margaret Hicks, Terry Harper,

Bill & Imogene Bartoe and Sharon-Kay Duncan for all their hard work. Thank you David & Ann for cooking such a great breakfast.



FALL FESTIVAL

The CCF held the Fall Fest on Sunday, October 15 during the regular Fellowship

Dinner time. There were about 35 folks present. I feel we all had a great time. I'd like to say "thank you" to everyone who helped by bringing food, cakes for the cake walk, to Doreen for making the wonderful Pumpkin Character Cake for the raffle, the Chi Rho/CYF for setting up and working the games, those who gave money, and most of all I'd like to thank Doreen, Barbara, Darrell, Margaret and Sharon Kay. *Greg*

PECANS IN THE CEMETARY

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

"One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along.

"Come here quick," said the boy. "You won't believe what I heard! Satan and the

Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls."

The old man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk?" When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me...."

The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord."

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full five minutes ahead of the kid on the bike.

Some Unnoticed Newsletter/Bulletin Bloopers

- "Potluck supper Sunday at 5 p.m. Prayer and medication to follow."
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 a.m. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done."
- "Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children."
- "Please place your donation in the envelope, along with the deceased person you want remembered."
- "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."
- "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
- "Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Please use the back door."



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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November '06

			1 Bible Study 7:00 Randy Bickley Darrell Vandervort	2	3	4 No CMF Breakfast this month
5	6 Board Meeting 7:30 Lois Crawford	7 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy.	8 Choir Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Lunch Bunch 2:00 Kris Campbell	9 Levi Cook	10	11 Howard & Grace Jordan Lonnie Hicks, Jr.
12 Carry-In Dinner 6:00	13 Joan Marshall	14 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy. Model Club 7:00	15 Choir Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Judy Cooper	16 CWF Meets 7:30	17 Regional Assembly	18 CWF Bake Sale & Mini Bazaar 9:00-Noon Tommy Marshall Regional Assembly
19 Regional Assembly ends	20 Kyle Campbell	21 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy.	22 Choir Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00	23 Phyllis Fitzpatrick	24	25
26	27	28 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy.	29 Choir Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00	30		



How is a Christian like a pumpkin?

A woman was asked by a co-worker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The co-worker replied, "It is like being like a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He then removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see".

Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy God's beautiful fall weather.

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