

# The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister  
Greg Holmes, Music Director



Church Jeopardy---The answer is: The Christmas parade, the choir's cantata, Christmas Eve.

The question is, what are three gifts that may be given to people without a church home?

It is time to think about gifts to be given during the holidays. Why not give the gift of a special event? You probably know someone who does not attend church, either because they have been chased out of church or because they have heard the horror stories about "judgmental Christians." The three events listed are safe opportunities to invite someone during a time that is not like most services.

While we know that we are not judgmental, it is a reality in our community that people have been ridiculed, judged and rejected by others in the name of the church. Some people are so hurt and scared that they are afraid to enter the doors of another church. They need to be lovingly reassured that not all Christians are alike, nor are all churches alike. During the Christmas holiday we have the chance to invite and gently welcome people who have been wounded in the name of Christ.

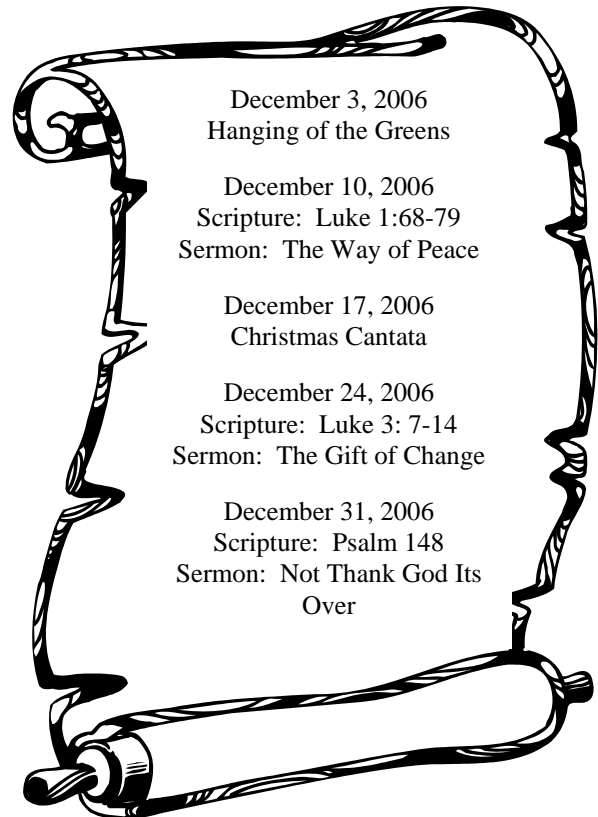
We need to share the joy and the wonder of our faith during this month. Let's remember what it was like to watch a parade as a child, to listen to a choir sing songs of joy to all people, to hold that candle in the darkness and sing Silent Night, to embrace others and wish them a truly Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We can remember and bring to life

these blessings in ourselves and share them with people we know and about whom we care.

This is the easiest gift to give. No shopping malls, no crowded parking lots, no long checkout lines, no wrapping or postage. Just the warmth of your smile and the love of your heart for your brother and sister. Sounds almost like the simple gift of a new born baby?

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Shalom, *Darrell*





## **DECEMBER ELDERS & DEACONS**

The Elders and Deacons scheduled for the month of November are: Elders – Jo Smith & Irv Shaw and Deacons – David Von Almen, Stephen Harper and Terry Harper.



### **CMF BREAKFAST**

The next men's breakfast will be held on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00. This is the day of the Warner Robins Parade. Come and get some warm food inside your body before participating in the parade and advertising our church.



### **CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS**

- Bathroom tissue
- Paper towels
- Napkins



### **SAFE HOUSE NEEDS**

- Bathroom tissue
- Deodorant
- Full size lotion
- Shower Gel



### **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.

In October we gave 44 pounds of food. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



### **LUNCH BUNCH NEWS**

The Lunch Bunch met on November 8th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Carl Shaw, Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Curtis & Nadine

Scaggs, Winona Smith and David Von Almen. The next meeting will be on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Ole' Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



### **HYMNS WE SING**

As I began to prepare for the holiday season, I started to think about what is my favorite Christmas carol. It was a difficult decision, but I chose "Silent Night." When I was a child taking piano lessons, my piano teacher, Miss Jan, bought me a Christmas album as a present. I still have that album. The carol that I'd play over and over was "Silent Night, Holy Night" which was sung by Mahaila Jackson.

"Silent Night, Holy Night" is on Page #145 in The Chalice Hymnal. This is probably one of the most popular Christmas carols of all time. It's a sweet, charming, and very understandable text. It shows the setting in which Jesus was born: the calm night, shepherds, and heavenly host. It's all very pastoral.

The story behind this carol is the stuff that folk legends are made of. Nevertheless, it's account is well documented. When Joseph Mohr was the pastor of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church in Austria, he wrote the words to the simple carol. The tune, **STILLE NACHT**, was composed by Franz Gruber, the church organist. The organ happened to be broken that Christmas eve, so it was sung by a simple guitar accompaniment.

The popularity of this carol may be attributed to Rev. John Freeman Young (1820-1885), an Episcopal bishop in Florida. He translated it from German to English, and it began to find it's way into hymnals, and into our hearts. This song leads to a great climax that declares "Christ the Savior is born!"

As Always, Greg



## OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The choir will present its Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. during the morning worship service. The title of the cantata is **Night of Wonder**. The cantata is a beautiful journey through the Advent and Christmas seasons. The story is a progression from the Advent prophecy to the annunciation of Mary, and from the birth of Jesus to the heavenly angelic host proclaiming, "Glory to God in the Highest."

The cantata includes gorgeous new music and settings of beloved carols: "Once in Royal David's City," and "Angels We Have Heard on High." There will be some congregational singing carols, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," and "What Child Is This."

I hope that all will be present as we present **Night of Wonder**. Come remembering the greatest gift of all, the gift of a baby, Jesus.

As Always, *Greg*



## CWF GRACE GROUP

CWF met on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Nine ladies attended. Following the business meeting, the program was given by Lois Crawford. It was called "Wisdom of Hospitality."

We want to thank everyone who participated in our Christmas bazaar and bake sale. We will make about \$535.00 when all the money is in. We had a raffle on a beautiful afghan that Charlotte Curry made for us. James Layfield, Ashlie Scissons' son, had his name drawn as winner.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Chris Rogers has been selected to be in the National Honor Society. We are all proud of you, Chris.



## 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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!

### "What Do Angels Look Like?"

- Like the little old lady who returned your wallet yesterday.
- Like the small child who showed the wonder in simple things.
- Like the stranger who just happened to come along, when you had lost your way.
- Like the friend who touched your heart, when you didn't think you had one to touch.
- Like the poor man who offered to share his lunch with you.
- Like the rich man who showed you that anything really is possible, if only you believe.



Angels come in all sizes and shapes, all ages and skin types. Some have freckles, some have dimples, some have wrinkles, and some without. They come disguised as friends, enemies, teachers, students, lovers and fools. They don't take life too seriously. They travel light. They leave no

forwarding address. They ask nothing in return. They are hard to find when your eyes are closed, but they are everywhere you look, when you choose to see.

## **A Story from your Global Ministries**

### **CHRISTMAS HOPES**

It is the time of year to celebrate the One who brought hope to the oppressed, the poor and the disenfranchised. The innocent babe born in the most humble of places, is God's love come to us in human form. This is a time to celebrate with loved ones, to look over the past year and to think of the year to come. This past year has been one of world-wide turmoil and as I write this I find it hard to celebrate for the world. There has been so much tragedy and loss of life. I have been frustrated as I try to find lovely words to express this season.

In the birth of this babe, we see the preciousness of life, the beauty and miracle of birth. Yet, if life is so precious, why are we destroying it in wars, hate, prejudices, social and economic injustices. And this beautiful planet, why are we destroying it? It was created for all humankind, no matter what race, religion, color or sex. All life in itself is God's most precious gift to us. We are to live in harmony with all forms of life/nature, not to control them.

I believe we should stop and think what each one of us can do to preserve life in all its forms, not only for us, but also for our descendants. It is time to forget individualism and think collectively; it is time to realize that all creation is bound together in one family. As we worship this baby of hope, we can see people of other religions, cultures and habits involved in the same love God showed us. The reflection of the God of love is in all.

Barbara de Souza is a volunteer with the Institute of Religious Studies.

## **WHO STARTED THIS CHRISTMAS STUFF?**

A woman was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable; and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year; overwhelming pressure to go to every party and every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car, everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified Him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.

**"Jesus Is the Reason for the Season".**

**Merry Christmas everyone!**



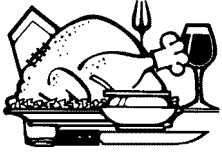


Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

# DECEMBER 2006

						1 8:00 Men's Breakfast WR Parade	2
Hanging of the Greens Congregational Mtg. <b>Russ Cooper</b>	3 Cabinet & Board Meetings 6:45 & 7:30 <b>Bob &amp; Gladys Fentem</b>	4 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy.	5 Choir Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00	6	7	8 <b>James Hicks</b>	9
Fellowship Dinner & Baby Shower 6:00	10	11 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy. Model Club 7:00	12 Lunch Bunch 2:00 Choir Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00	13	14 CWF 6:00 \$5.00 gift exchange at Brenda's home	15 <b>Margaret Hicks</b>	16 <b>Linda Gilmer</b> Choir Practice & Christmas party 5:00 p.m.
Cantata "Night of Wonder" <b>Ted Cook</b>	17	18 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy.	19	20	21	22	23
Christmas Eve Service 7:30	24	25 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House on Russell Pkwy.	26	27	28	29	30
"Feed My Sheep" Sunday <b>Haley Crofutt</b> <b>Austin Hurlbert</b>	31						





## A Christmas Chuckle

One year at Christmas, we all went to my sister's house for the traditional feast. It was my sister's first time to host the dinner and her first time to cook a turkey. She was quite nervous about the whole hostess role.

Knowing how gullible my sister is, my mom decided to play a trick on her. She told my sister that she needed something from the store. When my sister left, my mom took the turkey out of the oven. She removed the stuffing, stuffed a Cornish hen, inserted it into the turkey, and re-stuffed the turkey. She then placed the bird (s) back in the oven.

When it was time for dinner, my sister pulled the turkey out of the oven and proceeded to remove the stuffing. When her serving spoon hit something, she reached in and pulled out the little bird. With a look of total shock on her face, my mother exclaimed, "Oh, Patricia, you've cook a pregnant bird!"

At the reality of this horrifying news, my sister had a total melt-down and burst into tears. It took the family two hours to convince her that turkeys **lay eggs!** Author Unknown

### First Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

100 North Houston Road  
Warner Robins, GA 31093

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