

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Greg Holmes, Music Director



There are several interesting items on the February calendar. First we celebrate Valentine's

Day. A day that has been set aside for the acknowledgement of romance. We exchange cards with our sweethearts and close friends and family in an effort to express our feelings toward that person. We will spend more money on cards, candies, and flowers than at any other moment of the year.

We will collect our special offering for the Week of Compassion. The monies raised will be used to answer the needs of the victims of natural and human-made disasters around the world. People left homeless by wars, hurricanes, tornadoes and floods receive help. People who are starving because of famines and disasters are fed, all from the efforts made during an eight-day period in February. Will it cover all the tragedies of the year?

During the Week of Compassion, we will begin the season of Lent, a season of preparation and examination as we get ready to receive the greatest gift love can ever give. During this, the shortest month of the year, will we truly look at the way we live and the things we do in light of the way Jesus lived and taught? Or will we prefer not to look too closely?

Twenty-eight days is all we will have. And yet we can fill those days with a powerful focus, not on what God will do for us, but rather on what we should be doing for God and one another. For example, rather than paying out monies for flowers and candies and jewelry, (for protection maybe try this along with buying something special for

your spouse), give your true love the gift of regular recognition of your love. Set monthly date nights. Find a day each month (at least each month) when you get away from the usual and just spend the day or evening with each other. It would not have to require the outlay of resources. Go walk in a park, window shop, go for a drive in the country, pack a picnic, but do something that demands your focus only upon each other and fortify the union of your two hearts and spirits. Jesus led the disciples away from the crowds regularly so the disciples could renew themselves. Couples need that as well.

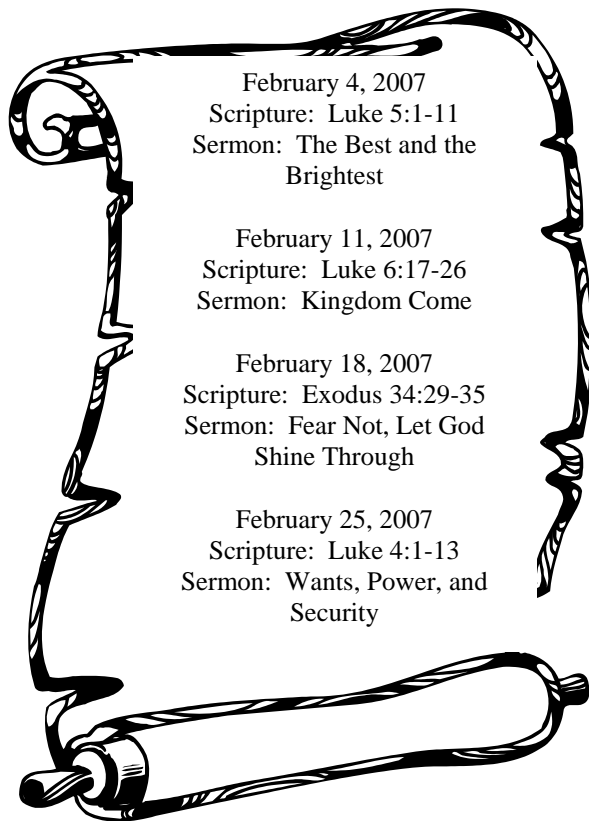
The week of Compassion meets the needs that occur throughout the year, not just in February. We have been sending gifts nearly every month since Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, but there have also been floods, tornadoes, famines, wars, and homelessness around the world. If you want to see a map of where our gifts end up each year, connect to www.disciples.org and go to the Week of Compassion web site and read some of the stories and look at the map of your outreach. It can help us keep our perspective and open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors near and far.

Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 21st. God's love can be ignored. God's gifts can lay unused. We can look the other way. During Lent we force ourselves to examine our lives as compared and contrasted against the life and teachings of Jesus. How do we do it? For 40 days (not including Sundays) we are to test ourselves and adjust ourselves so that we can walk a little closer to the Way of Christ. The challenge will not end on Easter. Instead,

we will continue to make the effort begun this month. When we do this we will discover how much easier it will be to express our love for those closest to us, and how easy it will be to help meet the need of our neighbors around the globe.

February is truly the month of love this year. The love of our partners, the love of our neighbors, and the love of our God as we are led in self-discipline. May you truly be blest this month with love.

Shalom, *Darrell*



The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"



FEBRUARY ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled for the month of February are: Elders – Randy Bickley & Lois Crawford and Deacons – Beth Bickley, Chris Rogers, Gidget Hurlbert and Nicole Crofutt.



CMF BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 8:00 a.m. This is a good time for the men of our church to get together and visit awhile since there is not a lot of time to do that on Sundays.



CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

Bathroom tissue
 Paper towels
 Dawn dish soap



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

African American Hair products
 Baby Wipes
 Curling Irons
 Hair Dryers
 Plastic storage containers (large)
 Laundry baskets
 School supplies
 Regular size Copy Paper (in dire need)
 Towels, wash cloths
 Carpet Freshner
 Ladies Pajamas (various sizes-not necessarily new, but in good shape and clean)
 Paper towels/napkins
 Sanitary lady's products
 Bathroom tissue
 Trash Bags (tall Kitchen)
 Zip lock storage bags, various sizes
 Plug Ins
 Laundry Soap
 Dish Soap
 Dish Washer Soap



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 January we gave 40 lb. to the food pantry. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on January 10th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: David Von Almen, Carl Shaw, Winona Smith, Bob, Gladys, Diane & Janice Fentem, Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Evelyn Hawkins, and Lonnie, Margaret & Quinton Hicks. The next meeting will be on February 14th at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



CWF GRACE GROUP

CWF met on Thursday, January 18th. Ten ladies attended. Following the business meeting, the program was given by Lois Crawford. It was called, "Women of Sisterhood." Grace Jordan provided a delicious assortment of snacks & soothing peach tea. We meet again on Feb. 15th. All ladies are invited to join us each month.



ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DINNER

The CWF will hold their annual Valentine's Dinner on February 11th. The meal served will consist of Mini Cheddar Meat Loaves, O'Brian Hash Brown Casserole, corn on the cob, salads, rolls, desserts, and drinks. The cost is \$5.00 per person, \$2.50 for children 12 and under and \$12.50 for a family. There will be a door prize for the lucky person whose name is drawn. Hope to see everyone on the 11th.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our congratulations to Kyle Campbell for being named All-Academic Athlete for Houston County Middle Schools All-County teams, as selected by athletic directors/coaches. **Mom and Dad are so proud of you!**

JUST DO SOMETHING

I once stopped behind several cars in an intersection. The winter weather was icy cold and a strong arctic wind blew relentlessly. Ahead of me a young woman stood alongside the street rubbing her bare hands together and dancing in place to keep warm. Beside her rested a sign that read, "I have a baby and no food." She was obviously crying, likely from the pain of the cold wind.

Homeless and unemployed people are a common sight in many of our larger cities, and most motorists drive by without offering assistance. They have no doubt been taught that giving money fosters a dependent lifestyle, or the ready cash may be used to purchase alcohol or another substance rather than the food it was intended for. Like me, they may have been taught that one should give to a local charity or through one's church, as these institutions can help those in need far more effectively.

This, of course, is true, but I am reminded of the college students who encountered a homeless man on the sidewalk. One of the students took a couple of dollars from his wallet and handed it to the unfortunate stranger. His friend commented, "Why did you do that? He's just going to spend it on booze or drugs." The student answered, "Yeah...like we're not!"

As I waited for the light to turn, I felt conflicted about that young woman. Whether or not I should give money, she was obviously in need. And whether or not she actually had a baby really didn't seem to matter. I gave up guessing people's

motives and analyzing their stories long ago. It was cold. She was cold. And she obviously felt she had to be there.

What should I do? Give her money? What was best? As I wrestled with these questions, the window rolled down on the car in front of me and a hand shot out holding a warm pair of gloves. The driver took her own gloves off and gave them to the shivering woman. I saw the young woman mouth the words "Thank you" as a broad smile lit up her face.

As I debated, somebody else helped. As I hesitated, somebody else acted. As I tried to decide the BEST way to assist, somebody else just did what she could. As I did nothing, she did something.

I made myself a pledge that day to always do SOMETHING. Whether it is big or small, just do something. Something is almost always better than nothing!

Educator Leo Buscaglia said, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Don't underestimate what you CAN do! Each of us can do something, and the something you do may be more important than you'll ever know.

Steve Goodier



HYMNS WE SING

The hymn I have chosen for February is "Just as I Am".

This hymn is on page number 339 in the **CHALICE HYMNAL**. This song brings back many memories of my growing up days. At Main Street Baptist Church, we sang this hymn just about every Sunday. We generally sang all six verses. The words of this hymn are burned on my brain, and that's not a bad thing. I still remember what page it was on in the 1956 **Baptist Hymnal** – number 240.

The author of this hymn was Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871). Charlotte was an invalid for the last 50 years of her life. She wrote these words after a sleepless night. She felt "tossed about with many a doubt." As her family attended a church bazaar, she penned the words to this song to bring herself comfort.

This hymn was originally printed in the 1836 edition of **The Invalid's Hymnal**. The verse most associated with this hymn is John 6:37, "He that cometh unto me will in NO way be cast out.

In this simple hymn, we see that it acknowledges our own faults, fears, and conflicts within us. But the best part is, Christ invites us to come, "just as we are."

Greg Holmes

COMING SOON – A CHURCH ORGAN

I'm excited to share with you that our church has purchased an organ. The organ is a Rogers 505. I feel the organ will be an asset to our worship services. I hope by the time you get your newsletter the organ will be in place, and we'll be using it during worship. At some point in the near future, I'd like to give a dedication recital. A big "thank you" to all who gave selflessly. Please continue to give to the Organ Fund, as we borrowed the money from the savings account to pay the cost of the organ in full.

Greg

CCF ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

The CCF's annual Chili Cook Off was held on Sunday, Jan. 21st after the morning worship service. The meal was great fun with about 50 people attending. Margaret Hicks won 1st place with her Country Time Chili. A special thanks to all who participated in the cook off, and to those who made desserts. Most of all, I'd like to thank Doreen Campbell & Barbara Hicks for all their hard work to make this event happen.

Greg

February 2007

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1 Choir Practice 7:00 Ben Campbell	2	3
4	5 Cabinet & Board Meeting 6:45 & 7:30 Mike Hurlbert	6 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	7 Gidget Hurlbert	8 Choir Practice 7:00 Fitz & Phyllis Fitzpatrick	9 Kathy Welker-Fuller	10 George & Betty Poore
11 CWF Valentine Dinner (after church)	12 Terry Harper	13 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Model Club 7:00	14 Lunch Bunch Meets 2:00	15 Choir Practice 7:00 CWF Grace meets 7:30	16 Curtis & Nadine Scaggs	17
18	19 Mary Jane Rogers	20 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	21 Ash Wed. Service 7:30	22 No Choir Practice Tony & Barbara Hicks	23	24
25 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday	26	27 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Brenda McReynolds	28 David & Ann Von Almen			

RULES FROM GOD FOR 2007

1. **Wake Up!!** Decide to have a good day. "Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24
2. **Dress Up!!** The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7
3. **Shut Up!!** Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3
4. **Stand Up!!** For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good." Galatians 6:9-10
5. **Look Up!!** To the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13
6. **Reach Up!!** For something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6
7. **Lift Up!!** Your prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead **PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.**" Philippians 4:6

First Christian Church

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