

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Greg Holmes, Music Director

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

March 2007 Number 3



As Christians, we have recently won a great victory, or at least that is the impression we are

expected to have. We have been told that we successfully prevented merchants from taking Christ out of Christmas. This was accomplished by intimidation and threatened boycotts of those same merchants who denied their employees the ability to wish their customers a "Merry Christmas" but insisted that they use the greeting "Happy Holidays."

It is an amazing ability we possess, this power to remove or insert Jesus, at will, into the holiday marking his birth. The command that everyone should say Christmas rather than Holiday or even the mistaken notion that Xmas is someone denying Jesus (Xmas reflects the usage of the Greek letter Chi or X which is the first letter in Christ) runs contrary to the Gospel Message of the one we are attempting to honor. It is a shame that so much time and resources were spent on an effort to put words into people's mouths with so little concern for putting the Word into people's hearts.

Most of us are familiar with the adage, "actions speak louder than words". If we really want to make sure that Christ remains at the heart of Christmas, then we should focus our attention and actions upon activities that speak to the heart as was done on the first Christmas.

Angels appeared to shepherds. Shepherds were often excluded in social settings

because they were smelly and dirty looking, yet this is the group that was first notified of the birth. The angels told the shepherds that they had good news of joy that would bring peace and good will. Do we first think of sharing great news with "smelly shepherds" or do we turn immediately to those most like us? Do we honor Christ with words but ignore the actions of Jesus in reaching out to the neglected and rejected of society? Or do our efforts reflect a desire to get more and separate ourselves from those smelly dirty people in our world today?

Who are these neglected and rejected people today? How about the single working mother, who spends all her time and energy keeping a roof over her family's heads and food on their plates and harbors the fear that all will be lost if she gets sick because there is no insurance. How about the individuals, who, because they are Hispanic, are immediately labeled as illegal aliens, when they are trying to do what every other immigrant to this country has tried to do through the centuries, to make a better life for their children. How about all the others that we automatically label and mentally file away as someone else's responsibility, neglecting the admonition "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Maybe if we spent less time focused upon the major shopping outlets and looked to the neighbors we are called to love as ourselves we would begin to preserve Christ in our hearts. If we were more concerned about whether or not the clerks in the chain stores had enough to eat and enough to take care of their children rather than what words came out of their mouths, we might keep Christ in their hearts as well as our own.

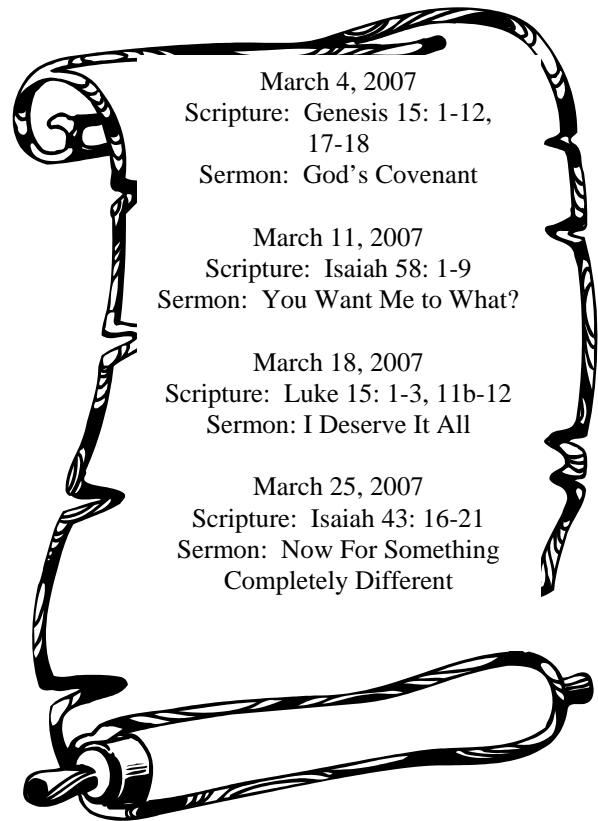
Maybe if we went into the areas where spending time in a mall is more about fantasy than reality and helped bring a greater sense of hope and promise (good news) that they did not stand alone, we might preserve Christ in our hearts every day. Maybe if we brought greetings of great joy to people trapped in the prison of sick and aging bodies more often than at Christmas time, we might experience the presence of joyful angels all year long.

Maybe if we acted like people whose lives have been pulled back from the brink of despair by a love beyond our deepest imaginings we would not need to throw money, time, and energy into campaigns of words. Christ is not in our words unless we demonstrate that His example permeates our daily lives. We can not be Christ-like, another way of saying Christian, unless we embrace the kind of love demonstrated in sacrifice. Would you give your life for the clerks in Wal-Mart? In Dollar General? At Smiley's Flea Market? Jesus gave his life so that we might be free to love without fear.

As we approach Easter, let us make ourselves more like Jesus and then we may not have to worry about where Christ is at Christmas time. During the month of March, begin to look around with open eyes. Eyes open to truly see the people around you. Seek out those who need the gifts God has given you to share. Seek out the "shepherds" who need to hear news of great joy. The people who need to know that not only is God with them, but so are you.

Shalom, *Darrell*

"All the things in this world are gifts and signs of God's love to us. The whole world is a love letter from God". *Peter Kreeft*



March 4, 2007

Scripture: Genesis 15: 1-12,
17-18

Sermon: God's Covenant

March 11, 2007

Scripture: Isaiah 58: 1-9
Sermon: You Want Me to What?

March 18, 2007

Scripture: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-12
Sermon: I Deserve It All

March 25, 2007

Scripture: Isaiah 43: 16-21
Sermon: Now For Something
Completely Different



MARCH ELDERS & DEACONS

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



CMF BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 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

6" foam dessert plates



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 February 14th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Winona Smith, Evelyn Hawkins, and Jerri Bosarge. The next meeting will be on March 14th at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



CWF GRACE GROUP

CWF met on Thursday, February 15th. Nine ladies attended. Following the business meeting, the program

was given by Lois Crawford. It was called "The Wisdom of Survival – What tools lie within you." Margaret Hicks provided a delicious assortment of snacks for refreshment. We meet again on March 15th. All ladies are invited to join us each month.

The Grace Group would like to thank everyone who came to the Valentine Dinner on Feb. 11th. A big thanks goes to the CWF ladies who prepared food and helped with the serving and clean up. We made \$179.00 profit. Chris Rogers was the lucky winner of the door prize.

YOUTH NEWS

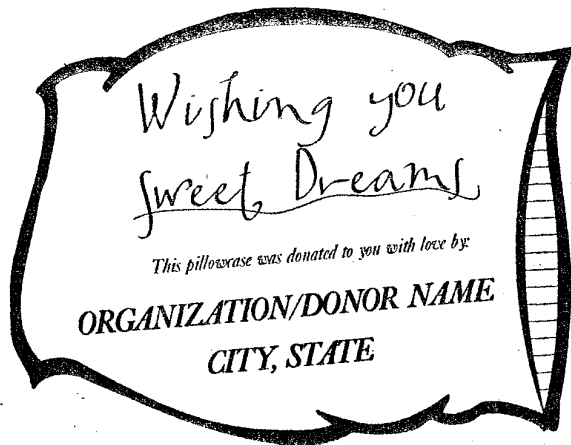
January 12-14, Chi Rho and CYF members attended the annual Youth-A-Palooza at Epworth by the Sea on Saint Simons Island. Among the over 400 Disciples attending were Darrell Vandervort, Chris Rogers, Nicole and Taylor Hicks. It was a fantastic weekend, and not just because the temperatures were in the 70's for the whole weekend. The theme was "Go and Do" calling on all the attendees to go and do as Jesus and the disciples did for the people around them. On Saturday night, as a member of YAC (Youth Activity Council), Nicole took part in the evening worship service. She was involved in a scripture reading and offered the closing prayer, which she had written. On Sunday, Chris joined the other seniors attending the event in serving communion to the group. The YAC will be working on the theme and plans for the next Youth-A-Palooza on January 29-30, 2008.

HOMECOMING 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The search is on! We would like to have photographs for the 50th Anniversary & Homecoming celebration so start collecting them now. If you have pictures that you would be willing to share from past events, please give them to either Jerri Bosarge or Ann Von Almen. Please give us the dates, names of those in the pictures and what

event it was from. Also include your name so that the pictures may be returned.

Sweet Dreams
*Successful Pillowcase Ministry
Needs More Pillowcases*



Generous people here in Warner Robins have been donating pillowcases to different Children's Hospitals in the area for the past two years. The director of the CURE Foundation, which provides support for children with cancer and for childhood cancer research for Egleston/Scottish Rite Hospital in Atlanta, is requesting more pillowcases to meet the demand. If you would like to bring some cheer and comfort to children away from home receiving medical treatment, you can be a part of this pillow case ministry.

The pillowcases must be:

- New
- Unwashed

They can be:

- Colorful, in a variety of patterns for both boys and girls.
- Embroidered, but cannot have anything glued on them.

All pillowcases will be ironed and labeled with the name of the person or organization responsible for their donation. The message wishes the recipient sweet dreams and best wishes and informs the

parents that the pillowcase is made of new, unwashed material.

If you would like to be part of this wonderful project for children, you may bring new pillowcases to the Fellowship Hall and lay them on the table next to the double doors going out to the sidewalk. They will be forwarded to children who will love their very own special pillowcase that someone sent to them with love.

Thank you for your help.

HYMNS WE SING

The 'hymn' I've chosen for March is the "Doxology." The "Doxology" is found on Page #46 in The Chalice Hymnal. The term doxology is defined as the liturgical expression of praise to God, usually referring to the Trinity. The "Doxology" first appeared in Thomas Ken's Manual of Praise in 1674. It was written for the boys of Winchester Cathedral school. The "Doxology" was used as part of the boys' daily devotions.

The tune best known is **Old Hundredth**. In our hymnal, you will notice there are several different doxologies. The one we sing is page 46.

There are many times, other than Sunday morning worship, that we could use the doxology: before a meal, in our private devotional time, and the times when we need to praise and thank God for the many blessing we have.

Greg Holmes

QUIPS FROM KIDS

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny. "Giving up?"

May God Bless our wonderful children.

March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Practice 7:00	2	3 8:00 Men's Breakfast
4	5 7:30 Board Meeting Phil Bosarge	6 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	7 7:30 Bible Study	8 Choir Practice 7:00 James Layfield	9	10 Doreen Campbell
11 Charlie Smith	12	13 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Model Club 7:00	14 2:00 Lunch Bunch Meets 7:30 Bible Study	15 Choir Practice 7:00 CWF Grace meets (covered dish 6:30)	16	17 Evelyn Carroll
18 6:00 Carry-In Dinner	19	20 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	21 7:30 Bible Study	22 Choir Practice 7:00	23 Marsha Vandervort Charlie & Jo Smith	24
25 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday	26	27 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	28 7:30 Bible Study Mike Rogers	29 Choir Practice 7:00 Sharon-Kay Duncan	30	31

1957 to 2007

Frist Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Warner Robins, Georgia, began with a step in Faith that continues. We invite you to attend our...

50th Anniversary Celebration

...on Sunday, June 10, 2007, beginning at 9:00 am with a continental breakfast, so mark your calendars now and come as we celebrate together. Watch your newsletter each month for more information as the plans develop.

For additional information or to RSVP contact the church at **(478) 923-1536**.

If you know someone else who would like to be notified and added to our mailing list please contact Curtis Scaggs at **(478) 953-3286**.

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

**100 North Houston Road
Warner Robins, GA 31093**

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WARNER ROBINS, GA
PERMIT NO. 42

Return Services Requested