

# The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister  
Greg Holmes, Music Director

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*(Disciples of Christ)*

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Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00

July 2007 Number 7

## Pastor's Corner

We are about to celebrate the nation's biggest holiday (not the day after Thanksgiving or the day after Christmas shopping days), but the Fourth of July. This is the date that the Continental Congress began signing the Declaration of Independence – the day the nation celebrates freedom. As Disciples, we have historic ties to the holiday. Alexander Campbell thought it was so significant a date that he scheduled all graduations from Bethany College on the Fourth of July. Fortunately for me, it did not carry over after he died. However, as a truly American denomination, our founders were very focused upon the idea of individual and congregational independence. To this day, Disciple congregations are not affected by any ruling from the General or Regional Assemblies, nor by statements from any denominational leader. We choose to accept or ignore any or all parts of any statements or resolutions. We are independent!

But this is a very sharp double-edged sword. We must always wield it with great care, or we will be cut by the very blade we celebrate. As a nation and a church, we must be willing to allow our personal liberty to step aside for the greater good of the whole. If we do not like the outcome of an election, as Americans we do not take our "ball and go home"; we accept the decision and move on to do the work in the best way that we can.

Yet, in the church we do have a tendency to allow our independence to divide us. Historically, all the denominations and divisions have usually resulted in arguments about human differences. We don't like that decision, we don't like that word, we don't believe that person or group should be allowed to lead or even be included etc, etc.

The Kingdom of God was opened to everyone by the Grace of God, not by a vote of all the human beings in the world. God's independence from those God created assure us that we can receive that Grace. This also demands that we sometimes set aside our emotions and listen for the voice of God to guide us. As Americans we are independent of all, except God. As American Christians, we must be dependent upon God alone. Everything else comes after.

Therefore, we must be willing to listen to the voices of other Christians, from other churches, other denominations and other nationalities to truly discover the voice of God in the world. This means we need to expand our awareness to include all our brothers and sisters in Christ. It also means we must listen for the voice of God coming from our brothers and sisters who call on the same God, but with a different name, Allah, G-d (the Jewish method of writing the name of God). It also means that God might speak through someone from a different faith altogether. We do not possess all the answers. We do not possess all of God. If we are fortunate, God possesses all that we are, because we have surrendered our complete selves into God's Will.

When the Fourth of July arrives, celebrate the independence of this nation, but also celebrate your dependence to the God who gave you life, now and forever.

Shalom, *Darrell*

## Our 50<sup>th</sup> Homecoming

On June 10, 2007, 136 people attended a service of celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of First Christian Church in Warner Robins, including four of the Charter members. After a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, members of the church, past and present, walked down to the Sanctuary for the Worship Service. This started half an hour earlier than normal to allow for all the special events.

During the worship service, we remembered the founding of the congregation and asked God's continued blessings as we prepare for the next 50 years. Presiding at the Communion Table was Reverend Del Von Almen. Del was the pastor of our Rome congregation, when his family from Warner Robins visited there and discussed starting a church in Warner Robins. He was invited to preach a revival that helped get our congregation started. The Georgia Regional Minister, Reverend Ray Miles delivered the morning message, calling upon the congregation to remember and celebrate that past, but to avoid the tragic mistake of trying to live in the past. Rather, we should honor the Christians who have gone before us by carrying the message of faith, hope and love into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

After worship, everyone gathered outside, in front of the sanctuary for a group picture and then returned to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious catered lunch. During the meal

a video of pictures from the past and present played on a television and people could share stories and then visit the memory room containing photo albums, and letters from former ministers and members who could not be present.

Much work was done by a large number of people to get the church ready, and to plan the event. On the evening of June 10<sup>th</sup>, they could rest with the knowledge that they had done a great job.



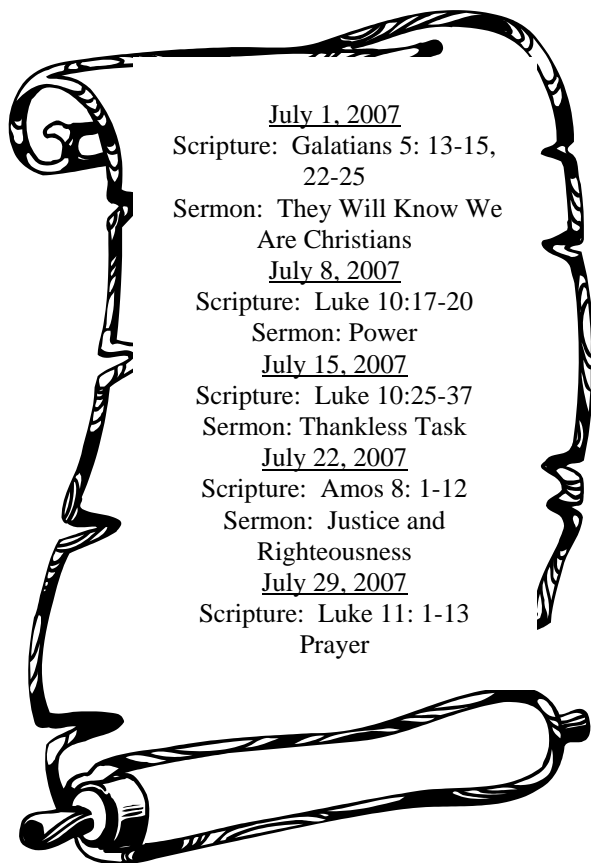
We would like to thank everyone who helped make our 50<sup>th</sup> Homecoming a great success. Special thanks to the members of our Homecoming Committee, to Wayne Scaggs and all those who helped the Property Committee in preparing our facility for our guests, and to the Rogers family for all the work done to prepare the DVD presentation for the event.

Our wish is that this event will be a great start for our next 50 years as we continue to spread the word to our community that First Christian Church extends the invitation to everyone to "come and be embraced."

*Ann Von Almen and Jerri Bosarge*

### Bulletin Bloopers

- Brethren We Have Me to Worship
- The Pectoral Directory is now available.
- New Bare Group—Studying the book of Revelation



July 1, 2007

Scripture: Galatians 5: 13-15, 22-25

Sermon: They Will Know We Are Christians

July 8, 2007

Scripture: Luke 10:17-20

Sermon: Power

July 15, 2007

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: Thankless Task

July 22, 2007

Scripture: Amos 8: 1-12

Sermon: Justice and Righteousness

July 29, 2007

Scripture: Luke 11: 1-13  
Prayer

## JULY ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled for the month of July are: Elders –Tony Hicks and Jerri Bosarge and Deacons – Nicole Hicks, Doreen Campbell, Kody Campbell and Wayne Scaggs.



## **CMF BREAKFAST**

There will be no Men's breakfast during July and August. The next breakfast will be on September 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00. We look forward to seeing everyone then.

## **CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS**

8 oz. foam cups  
Paper towels



## **SAFE HOUSE NEEDS**

Office supplies (typing paper, manilla folders, staples, gem clips, white out, scotch tape)

Heavy duty aluminum foil

Dish towels

Dish detergent

Automatic dish washer detergent

Face towels & hand towels

Twin sheets

Seasonings: Salt, Pepper, Seasoning salt, Garlic powder, Accent

Games fo small children (3-6 years old)

“Thank you again for all that you do for our shelter. It is because of people like you that we continue helping those who need our help and are in need of a safe environment to escape and heal from being abused.” Safe House



## **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. We have recently given about 95 pounds to the food pantry. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



## **LUNCH BUNCH NEWS**

The Lunch Bunch met on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Winona Smith, Bill & Imogent Bartoe, Lonnie, Margaret & James Hicks, Curtis, Nadine & Lewis Scaggs, and Keith and Glenda Ewert. The next meeting will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



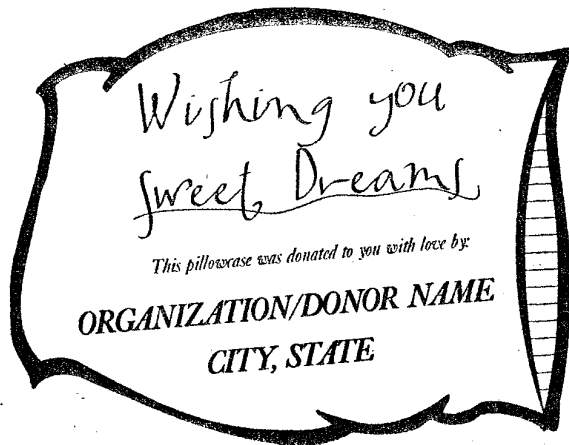
## CWF GRACE GROUP

CWF met on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for a covered dish dinner before the 7:30 meeting. Six members were

present.

The group wishes to thank all who participated in any way with our annual May yard sale. It was a success with \$694.03 earned for our projects. We regret that this was our last one.

### 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.

## HYMNS FOR THE OVER 50 CROWD

1. "Just A 'Slower' Walk with Thee"
2. "It is Well with My Soul" But My Knees Hurt
3. "Nobody Knows the Trouble I 'Have Seeing'"
4. "Precious Lord, Take My Hand", And Help Me Up.
5. "Count Your Many 'Birthdays', Count Them One By One"
6. "Go Tell It On A Mountain", But Speak Up
7. "Give Me the Old 'Timers' Religion"
8. "Blessed 'Insurance'"
9. "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah", I've Forgotten Where I've Parked the Car

**Prayer: "Lord as my body grows older and slows down, keep my mind young and my spirit vibrant, that I may keep up with all that you desire me to do. Amen"**

V. Louise Cunningham

# July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Juliet Nolde</b>	2	3 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House <b>Evelyn Hawkins</b>	4 No Bible Study 7:00	5	6	7 <b>Joe &amp; Lisa Lombardo</b>
8 <b>Jerri Bosarge</b>	9 <b>Keith Ewert Tony Hicks</b>	10 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Model Club 7:00	11 Bible Study 7:00 <b>Winona Smith</b> Lunch Bunch 2:00	12	13	14 <b>Lonnie &amp; Margaret Hicks</b>
15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 <b>Carl Shaw</b>	16	17 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	18 Bible Study 7:00	19 <b>Fran Rutherford Laurie Cook</b>	20	21
22	23	24 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	25 Bible Study 7:00 <b>Wayne Scaggs</b>	26	27	28
29 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday <b>Dalton &amp; Dakota Crofutt</b>	30	31 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House				

## SIGNS SEEN IN FRONT OF CHURCHES

- “Looking for a sign from God? This is it.”
- “No God—No Peace. Know God—know Peace.”
- “Free Trip to Heaven. Details inside.”
- Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robins.”
- “Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!”
- “Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons—come hear one!”
- “People are like tea bags—you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.”
- “Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!”
- “When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out alright.”
- “Where will you be sitting in eternity? Smoking or non-smoking?”
- “I was going to waste, but Jesus recycled me.”
- “Our arms are the only ones God has to hug His children.”
- “Dusty Bibles lead to dirty lives.”

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