

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

September 2007 Number 9



How do we as a congregation decide on the direction we want to go? How do we

intentionally seek God's guidance so that we are following the Way? In Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential, the author, George W. Bullard, Jr. describes taking a "spiritual strategic journey." The challenge is to involve enough people so as to succeed. This is not a generic one size fits all approach. It is not a quick fix. It challenges the members of the congregation to serious commitment to go to the church, and to seek spiritual guidance.

All living things adapt to their environment in order to survive. As human beings age we must often learn new things in order to take part in society. Remember learning to print and then writing in cursive (something that is falling away). We learned to operate a typewriter or a word processor, then a computer. We read simple sentences and then moved to more involved books. Now we are learning to read simple sentences in text messages and instant messages. If we remain dogmatically committed to never learning anything new again, we will be lost as everyone else rolls along. This is not a ringing endorsement of change for the sake of change. However, it is a realization that we must be aware of what is occurring around us so as to be prepared to act accordingly.

A church's mission, stated simply, is to share the Good News and make students of Jesus. All churches accept that mission and claim it as their own. The differences are in the ways we bring it into practice. Do we stay with the approaches that were used

50 years ago, or do we attempt to adapt the mission to modern times? Do we try to do what everyone else is doing around the country, or do we measure our strengths and our community in order for the mission to work here?

One of the first steps is to decide why we resist change. As I am writing this the high temperature for the day is to be around 102 degrees, at least. Remember the good old days of large windows that ran from floor to ceiling and the only way to cool the house was to open every window and door? Care to go back to that? Remember when there was no such thing as a microwave oven? Remember when you talked of dialing a phone, you actually had to spin a dial? For that matter, remember when the phone was in only one room and could not be carried any farther than the cord attached to the headset? Would you like to go back to the Good Old Ways?

We have to be willing, with God's guidance to accept that some of the activities and ways of doing Church might need to be adjusted to complete the mission set before us. It may mean greater demands upon time, either for events on Sundays or even other days and times. It may mean we change the way we design our operating structure. Is following the business pattern better than building a structure that better reflects the Will of God? Maybe the changes are less about what happens on Sunday morning, but rather what we need to do Sunday night, or Saturday night, or some other night.

For 100 days, we will attempt to take this strategic spiritual journey. From Labor Day to Christmas, worship will reflect this journey, small groups should reflect this

journey, our private devotional life should reflect this journey, and new groups will be formed. "Share and Prayer Triplets" will gather 10 times during this 100 days and, as the name describes, share and pray for the guidance of God to inspire our membership to achieve the full kingdom potential. The Triplets will be three people, ideally, not composed of husband and wives or close friends, but rather a blending of newer participants with long time members, a blending of generations and experiences. As the groups begin, there will need to be more effort in building connections, but as trust and spiritual bonds grow, so will the ability of the participants to share their dreams and visions for the church, and their awareness of the presence of God's leadership.

This is not about how to become a bigger church; it is about realizing what God given potential we have and fulfilling it. It is not about growing numerically. It is not about growing generationally. It is not about measuring success with numbers. It is about fulfillment, as individuals and as a congregation. It is about fulfillment of what God has called us together to be and to do. Are you ready for a journey.

Shalom, *Darrell*

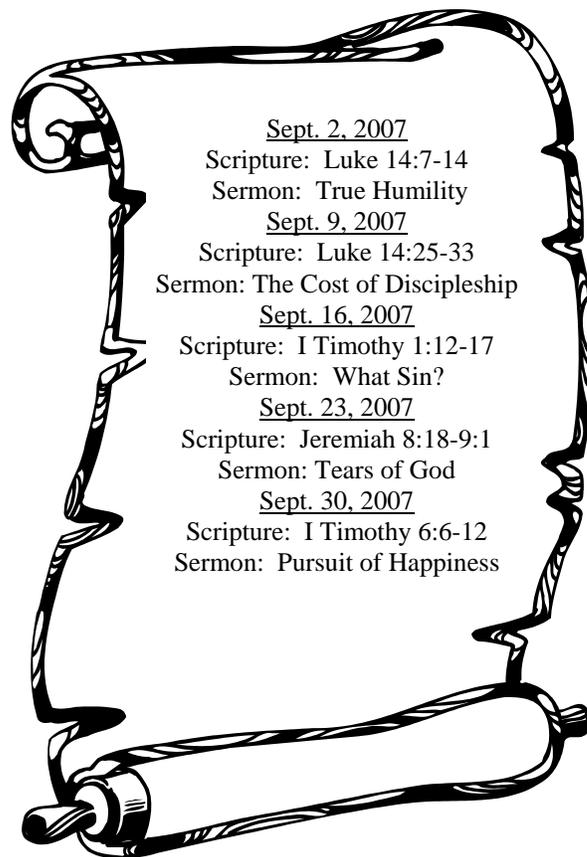
SEPT. ELDERS & DEACONS

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



CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF monthly breakfasts will resume on Saturday, September 8th, at 8:00. We look forward to seeing everyone then.



Sept. 2, 2007

Scripture: Luke 14:7-14

Sermon: True Humility

Sept. 9, 2007

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Sermon: The Cost of Discipleship

Sept. 16, 2007

Scripture: I Timothy 1:12-17

Sermon: What Sin?

Sept. 23, 2007

Scripture: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Sermon: Tears of God

Sept. 30, 2007

Scripture: I Timothy 6:6-12

Sermon: Pursuit of Happiness

CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

Oblong divided foam plates
9 oz. cold cups



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Slippers (all sizes) for women and children

Canned goods

Cereals (Lucky Charms, Fruit Loops, Frosted Flakes, Apple Jacks)

Cleaning supplies (always needed)

Heavy duty mops and brooms

Pillows (standard size)

Bath towels & wash cloths

Twin sheet sets

Full size sheet sets (two)

Pain relievers (Aspirin & non Aspirin, Ibruprofen)

First Aid creams & sprays, Neosporin, Bacitracin

Rice, Instant Oatmeal

Snacks for kids (Raisins, Vanilla Wafers, Graham Crackers)

Fabric softner, laundry detergent,
bleach
Office supplies (white-out, red, green &
black ball point pens, message pads,
Post-A-Notes)



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 170 pounds to the food pantry. We gave 41# in August. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on August 8th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Curtis & Nadine & Lewis Scaggs, Winona Smith, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Keith & Glenda Ewert and Darrell Vandervort. The next meeting will be on Sept. 12th at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



CWF GRACE GROUP

We will resume our monthly meetings on Sept. 20th at 6:30 with a covered dish meal. All ladies are invited to join us each month.



HYMNS WE SING

Christ was about broadening the circle; not closing the circle. Our hymn this month is "In Christ There Is No East or West". The hymn can be found on Page 687 in the Chalice Hymnal.

John Oxenham's hymn test comes from Galatians 3:28. ***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free...for all are one in Christ.*** One of our Disciple's forebear said, "unity is our polar star." Are we broadening Christ's

circle? Yes! We at First Christian Church, Warner Robins, Georgia do a good job of including those on the fringe of society: those with mental illness, people who's sexual orientation is different, people of color, and folks with tattoos and body piercings. This hymn lifts up the dignity and equality of ALL people. *Greg Holmes*

Our sympathy and prayers go to the Lonnie Hicks & Tony Hicks families upon the death of their brother, Herman.

The next Couples Night Out will be Sat., Sept. 8th at 6 p.m. at Los Cabanas at the intersection of 247 and Sandy Run Rd. Invite your married, engaged, or dating friends to join us. We'll have a good time and won't have to do the dishes! Please let Jerri or Mary Jane know if you can attend.

HOW POOR PEOPLE LOVE

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad", replied the son. "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. So, tell me, what you learned from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants, who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

We are Blessed, So Blessed.

September 2007

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2 Kody Campbell	3 Labor Day Tom Milliken	4 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	5 Bible Study 7:00	6	7	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast Ashlie Scissons
9 Tommy & Joan Marshall	10 Cabinet/Board Meetings 6:45 & 7:30 Imogene Bartoe Bill & Imogene B.	11 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Model Club 7:00 Bob Fentem Phil & Jerri B.	12 Bible Study 7:00 Lunch Bunch 2:00	13 Choir Practice 7:00	14	15 Charlotte Curry
16 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 "Fitz" Fitzpatrick	17	18 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	19 Bible Study 7:00 Katheryne Smith	20 CWF Grace 6:30 (covered dish)	21	22
23	24	25 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	26 Bible Study 7:00	27 Choir Practice 7:00 Tom & Billie Milliken	28	29
30 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday Betty Poore						

NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, whose breath gives life to the world, hear me! I come to you as one of your many children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in beauty. Make my eyes behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things that you have made, and my ears sharp to hear you voice.

Make me wise so that I may know the things that you have taught your children—the lessons that you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make me strong, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy: myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with straight eyes, so that when life fades as the faded sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame.
~John Yellow Lark~

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