

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00

Dec. 2007 Number 12



O Henry was a master of the short story. If you have never read his story entitled "The Gift of the Magi," you have truly missed out on a complete understanding of Christmas. A young newly married couple, struggling to make ends meet, want to give the perfect gift to their spouse. A gift that will truly demonstrate their love for the other. The bride had long, beautiful hair and has expressed a real desire for a set of combs to hold the hair in place. The husband admires a watch chain for the pocket watch passed down through his family. Out of deep love for each other, they do all they can to provide these perfect gifts. The wife cuts and sells her hair, while the husband sells his pocket watch. When they exchange their gifts, they share their joy of mutual love.

Today, we might cynically point out how much of a waste this was, she no longer had hair that required combs, and what good is a watch chain with no watch. But this misses the purpose of the gifts and misses the purpose of gift giving.

We spend, by latest estimates, as much as \$1000 to buy gifts for family. We want to overwhelm our family with piles of gifts. We buy the latest, the most up-to-date items advertised as the Must Haves in ads. Remember when your children were as impressed and actually spent more time playing with the boxes than with the gifts that had held the gifts?

O Henry's characters were not disappointed that their gifts could not be put to use. Rather, they focus upon the depth of love and sacrifice shown by their partner, to give the one perfect gift, the gift that said "I love you."

For Christmas 2007, do not strive to overwhelm. Do not try to out spend someone else. Do not try to flood the area under the tree with gifts. Instead, find the gift that will speak to the heart of the person to whom you give the gift and say, "You are love."

After all, that is what happened on the very first Christmas. Merry Christmas, you are indeed loved.

Shalom, *Darrell*

DEC. ELDERS & DEACONS

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



CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF monthly breakfast was held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd at 8:00. Nine attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Ann and David Von Almen and also enjoyed fellowship together. They will meet again on Dec. 1st. Every man is invited to come, eat & share in the fellowship.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Our church will be passing out hot chocolate and coffee to those people standing in line to watch the parade and to those who are on floats while they wait to join the parade. We hope lots of our members will come help with this outreach project for our church.



NURSERY WORKERS

Dec. 2	Ashlie Scissons
Dec. 9	Nicole Crofutt
Dec. 16	Gidget Hurlbert
Dec. 23	Laurie Cook
Dec. 30	Ashlie Scissons

DECEMBER NURSERY WORKERS



Dec. 2, 2007

Scripture: Isaiah 2: 1-5
Sermon: Healing Community

Dec. 9, 2007

Scripture: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Sermon: Healing the Damaged

Dec. 16, 2007

Choir Cantata

Dec. 23, 2007

Scripture: Matt. 1: 18-25
Sermon: Wholeness of Faith

Dec. 30, 2007

Scripture: Psalm 148
Sermon: Praise God for ALL Things

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007 during the morning worship service. All members are encouraged to attend. The items to be discussed and voted on are the 2008 budget and the officers and new board

members. We look forward to seeing everyone on that Sunday.



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6

Lysol spray

Baby Wipes

Baby Rash Cream

Laundry Soap

Bathroom Tissue

Canned food (no Kidney Beans)



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. As of this newsletter, we have given about 331 pounds to the food pantry. We gave 70 lb. in Nov. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Nov. 14th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Curtis, Nadine & Lewis Scaggs, Margaret & Lonnie Hicks, Keith & Glenda Ewert, Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Winona Smith, Evelyn Hawkins and Lois Crawford. The next meeting will be on Dec. 12th at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



CWF GRACE GROUP

The CWF Grace group meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 15th. There were 11 ladies present. The Program/Worship/Study was given by Margaret Hicks entitled "Invited to the Table at a New Place and a New Time." It also included information about Korean women and churches there. The Dec. 20th meeting will be at Brenda McReynold's home.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door forever.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee has redone the membership board and has added a Memory Board. Please let us know how you like it.

OUR HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Oct. 28th everyone who came to the Fellowship Hall had a good time, with a costume contest, cake walks, food and fellowship.

A special "Thank you" goes to Margaret Hicks, Sharon Kay Duncan, and Winona Smith for manning the kitchen. A very special "Thank you" goes to Chris Rogers and a huge "Thank you" goes to Taylor Hicks for helping with the games. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

CELL PHONE VERSUS BIBLE

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone.

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets.
- What if we flipped through it several times a day.
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it.
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text.
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it.
- What if we gave it to kids as gifts.
- What if we used it when we traveled.
- What if we used it in case of emergency.

Is this something to make you go....hmmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill in full. It makes you stop and think, "where are my priorities?" And no dropped calls!

Internet inspiration

A LESSON LEARNED

Several years ago, a new preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, " Here, you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday".

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh, God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard and remember (as I try to remember) that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

- Watch your thoughts; they become words.
- Watch your words; they become actions.
- Watch your actions; they become habits.
- Watch your habits; they become character.
- Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						8:00 Men's Breakfast WR Christmas Parade
2	3 Cabinet & Board Mtgs. 6:45 & 7:30 Russ Cooper	4 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bob & Gladys Fentem	5 No Choir Practice	6	7	8 Christmas Pageant 7:00, 7:30, & 8:00
9 Congregational Meeting during service Christmas Pageant 7:00, 7:30, & 8:00	10	11 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Model Club 7:00	12 Lunch Bunch 2:00 Choir Practice 7:00	13	14	15 Margaret Hicks
16 Linda Gilmer Choir Cantata during service Fellowship Dinner 6:00	17 Ted Cook	18 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House	19 Choir Practice 7:00	20 CWF meets at Brenda's at 6:30 (bring an appetizer)	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00	25 	26 No Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday	31 Haley Crofutt Austin Hurlbert					

DEATH EXPLAINED AND THE FUTURE

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining. As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

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