

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

February 2008 Number 2



Lent begins on Feb. 6th this year. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. to start the

season of preparation for Easter. Even though society does not place the same emphasis upon Lent as it does Advent, as Christians, we should place greater emphasis upon this season.

Historically, people have given up something for Lent. Usually it is something that we should not be doing already, or something that is not healthy for us to begin with. However, we miss the point if we only remove something from our daily or weekly activities without adding something spiritually beneficial. This year I would like to challenge you to not only make a sacrifice, but to also make the sacrifice a blessing, not only to you but to the greater community as well.

In the past, when we give up an activity that uses our time, we fill it with personal devotional activities. This is great, however, what if we went farther and gave that time away for the good of the community? We could take that time and do devotional readings for people in nursing homes that have few if any visitors. A person could sit and read the Bible or devotional out loud. You could talk about just about anything and the patient would experience it as a blessing. What if we took that time and spent it tutoring students in school or help adults achieve literacy? The mental stimulation as well as serving other people would double the blessing for all of us.

Maybe the recovered time could be spent assisting Habitat for Humanity through their ministries. Building homes is only the most visible aspect of what they do. Habitat also helps the families learn to budget, how to care for their homes, and many other tasks to perpetuate their ministry. Volunteers are needed in a variety of places around our community; from food pantries to the hospital. There are places that the time of people is seen as a great gift.

In the past, we may have given up something that does not provide us with more time in a day, but may provide savings in our budgets. What could we do with the extra monetary resources? Obviously, it could be used to relieve burdens on your own budgets. But it could also be shared with the church either in the general offering or in special outreach efforts such as Week of Compassion.

The financial savings could be used to buy additional food for our Feed My Sheep efforts at the end of each month. All the collected food is given to the food bank. Another choice could be to purchase items for the Women's Shelter. There is always a list of items needed in the newsletter. The people helped by these two outreach opportunities are blessed by our efforts.

What if we looked beyond our local community? Is there some way to help globally? We could use our discovered time to improve our understanding of ways to use less energy both at home and by purchasing things that reflect concern for the environment and the communities in which they are produced. We can offer our financial gifts to groups like Bread For The

World, www.bread.org, which helps provide food for starving people around the world. We can shop on line for Equal Exchange products, things like coffee, tea, and chocolate. These products allow the producers to receive a fair price for their labors. Check out the web site www.equalexchange.coop/interfaith for more information.

Use your imagination this Lenten season and discover ways that you can not only be blessed, but that your blessings may become blessings to others. Sacrifice is not about personal discomfort and inconvenience. It is about willingly surrendering some aspect of ourselves for the benefit of others and ourselves. Give it a try.

Shalom, *Darrell*

FEB. ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled for the month of Feb. are: Elders – Denny & Brenda McReynolds and Deacons – Kody Campbell, Evelyn Carroll, Scott Nolde & Frances Rutherford.

CMF BREAKFAST

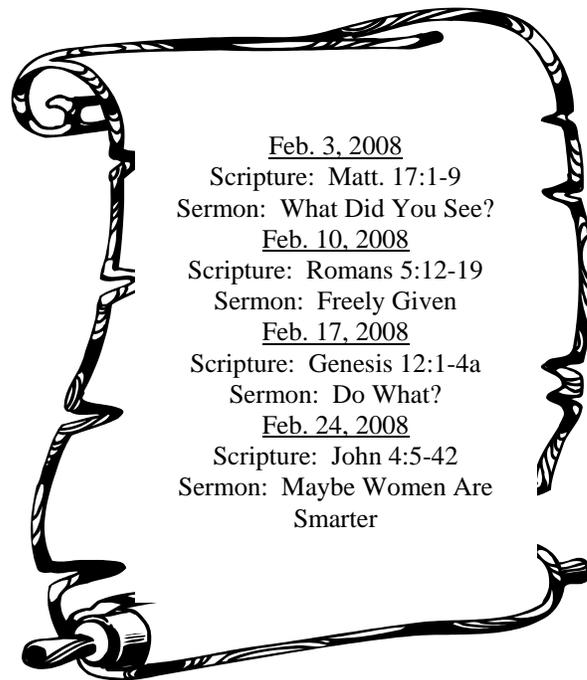


The CMF monthly breakfast was held on Saturday, Jan. 5th at 8:00. Ten attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Ann and David Von Almen and also enjoyed fellowship together. They will meet again on Feb. 2nd Every man is invited to come, eat & share in the fellowship.



FEBRUARY NURSERY WORKERS

Feb. 3	Gidget Hurlbert
Feb. 10	Nicole Crofutt
Feb. 17	Juliet Nolde
Feb. 24	Jo Smith



Feb. 3, 2008
 Scripture: Matt. 17:1-9
 Sermon: What Did You See?
Feb. 10, 2008
 Scripture: Romans 5:12-19
 Sermon: Freely Given
Feb. 17, 2008
 Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a
 Sermon: Do What?
Feb. 24, 2008
 Scripture: John 4:5-42
 Sermon: Maybe Women Are Smarter



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

- Towels
- Detergent
- Bathroom Tissue
- Laundry baskets
- Copy paper
- Manila folders
- Cold & allergy meds. (adult & kids)
- Dish Soap
- Dishwasher Soap
- Desinfectant



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 gave about 491 lbs. of food items in 2007. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Jan. 9th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Winona Smith, Evelyn Hawkins, Lewis Scaggs, and David Von

Almen. The next meeting will be on Feb. 13th at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.

BOOKS ON SALE

Barnes and Nobles bookstore on Tom Hill Sr. Blvd. in Macon is moving. Everything in the store is on sale. If you would like to add books to the church library or to the children's library, here is a chance to get new books for less. We will have a box at Barnes and Nobles, and if you want a book, it can be added to the First Christian Church box. The books will all be picked up at the same time.



On Sunday, April 20th, the Covenant Players will be here to provide a drama after our Fellowship Dinner. We need to provide \$225 plus housing for a night or two for three or four college aged young people. There will also be a freewill offering taken after the performance. The Covenant Players have been around since at least the 1960's. These young people travel around the country performing church related dramas as a ministry. Please make note on your calendar of this date and invite friends and neighbors, especially any teenagers interested in drama, to attend.

Gifts to defray the cost of the program should be designated for **Covenant Players**. If you can provide overnight housing, please let the church know.

OUR ORGAN NEEDS HELP

At some time during November, our organ suffered a lightning strike. We need to have some work done on it. The estimate, without being seen is about \$500.00. It may be higher once it has been examined. If you would like to help cover this cost, please make gifts to the Organ Fund.



CWF GRACE GROUP

The December meeting was held at the home of Brenda McReynolds on December 13th. Eleven ladies plus little Theresa Nolde attended. Snacks provided by all were enjoyed during a Fellowship hour. Brenda led an inspiring devotional. In lieu of exchanging gifts, donations were collected for gifts for the women and children at the Safe House. We gave \$65 to this worthy cause.

The CWF Grace group meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 17th. There were eight women who attended. Jo Smith led the Study/Worship lesson titled "Sharing the Table". Refreshments prepared by Ruth Griffith and Margaret Hicks were enjoyed after the meeting. We discussed our annual Valentine's Luncheon which will be held after church on February 10th. Our next meeting will be on Feb. 21st at 7:30. All ladies are invited to join us.

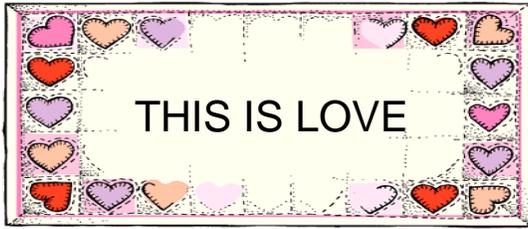
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee will be passing out 2008 directories soon. New information pages are being added yearly. Please check your name, address, telephone number, birthday and anniversary. If you find an error, please tell Mary Jane or Sharon-Kay. The ladies on this committee are Evelyn Hawkins, Brenda McReynolds, Ruth Griffith, Billie Milliken, Mary Jane Rogers and Sharon-Kay Duncan. The committee sends birthday, anniversary, get well, missing you and thinking of you cards. Our goal is to let all church members know that they are loved and missed if they are not in church. We also want to know how we as a committee and a church can be of help if they are ill.

Remember that the shortest bridge between despair & hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Ben Campbell	2 8:00 Men's Breakfast
3	4 Board Meeting 7:30	5 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Mike Hurlbert	6 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00	7 Gidget Hurlbert	8 Harold & Phyllis Fitzpatrick	9 Kathy Welker-Fuller
10 CWF Valentine Luncheon George & Betty Poore	11	12 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Model Club 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Terry Harper	13 Choir 7:00 Lunch Bunch 2:00	14	15	16 Curtis & Nadine Scaggs
17 Fellowship Dinner 6:00	18	19 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Mary Jane Rogers	20 Choir 7:00	21 CWF Grace 7:30	22 Tony & Barbara Hicks	23
24 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday	25	26 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	27 Choir 7:00 Brenda McReynolds	28 David & Ann Von Almen	29	



What's Really Important

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with the relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry.

The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and paused. Then they all turned around and went back. Every one of them. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it feel better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for 10 minutes.

Author Unknown

Submitted by Bob French from A 3rd serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul
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