

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director



Growing up in northeast Ohio, one of the radio stations to which I listened was CKLW, a Canadian

station out of Windsor, Ontario. They played Motown. So it should come as little surprise that I was and am a Gladys Knight fan. During high school, she released a recording of "Try to Remember" combined with "Memories". Both pieces recall the "good old days" but also demonstrate that we cannot live in the past.

During the past eight years, yes, I have been here that long, I heard a lot about how things used to be in this congregation. Full worship services, large groups going to youth events, active groups. This was mixed in with a regret that things were no longer that way. As I have said on many occasions, be careful what you ask for...you might just get it.

We are beginning to get it. We have more people in worship. If everyone turns in forms that have talked with me about summer camp, we will send 12 children and youth and three adults to seven different camps (remember camp forms need to be turned in by the last Sunday of April). A new adult Sunday school class is moving along well, as well as the new CWF group. However, all this new activity and new participants requires more work from more people. We need more people involved as teachers and group volunteers to help with Sunday school, children and youth programs. We need to generate outreach visions for work to be done in our

community and beyond. We need people not only willing to pray for the church but to tell the people of the congregation that they are praying for the elders, the deacons, the CMF (Christian Men's Fellowship); also praying for the CWF (Christian Women's Fellow), the CCF (Christian Children's Fellowship), the Chi Rho (middle school youth group), and the CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship—high school youth). Oh yeah, I can always use a little prayer as well.

The Prayer Triads that were formed last year completed their work and their energy and prayers have contributed in many ways to the surge of hope and positive energy we are now experiencing. This month I want to encourage those who were in triads last year to help form new triads this year. I also want to encourage those who did not get involved to seriously consider taking part in the new triads. Previously, the triads were tasked to pray for the church, its direction and its needs and for one another. The new triads will continue this, but with an addition. During the months of April through July, I want the triads to look at the needs of the community and seriously discuss what we, as a church, can do to fulfill the words of Matthew 25:40-- "When you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me".

We are a growing, loving community that invites others to be embraced in loving fellowship. Now let us turn our efforts to reaching outward with that loving fellowship and embracing those who are hungry, thirsty, oppressed, and alone. We are capable so let us ask God to guide our

efforts and show us the ways we can share the Good News of liberty and wholeness to all those around us.

Shalom, *Darrell*

APRIL ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled for the month of April are: Elders –Randy Bickley & Lois Crawford and Deacons – Beth Bickley, Wayne Scaggs, Gidget Hurlbert & Nicole Crofutt.



CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF monthly breakfast was held on Saturday, March 1st at 8:00. Thirteen attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Ann and David Von Almen and also enjoyed fellowship together. They will meet again on April 12th. Every man is invited to come, eat & share in the fellowship.



APRIL NURSERY WORKERS

April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

Jo Smith
Juliet Nolde
Margaret Hicks
Mike Hurlbert

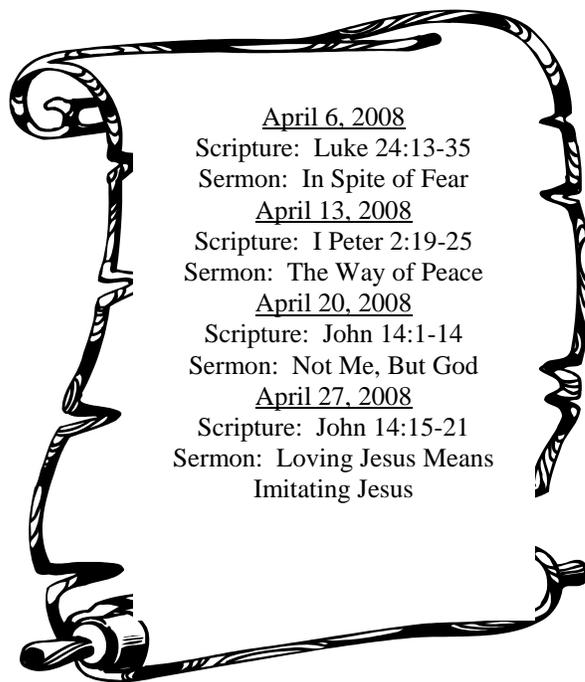


Feed My Sheep

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 given about 93 pounds so far this year. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.

Christian Humor

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country, "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.



April 6, 2008

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: In Spite of Fear

April 13, 2008

Scripture: I Peter 2:19-25

Sermon: The Way of Peace

April 20, 2008

Scripture: John 14:1-14

Sermon: Not Me, But God

April 27, 2008

Scripture: John 14:15-21

Sermon: Loving Jesus Means Imitating Jesus

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Christina Baxter was the last child in a family of twelve children. She was born and raised in Iowa. She was raised as a Catholic, but never really had a spiritual connection. This is the reason she drifted away from the church. It gave her a lot of pain and struggles before she joined the Air Force. She met her husband, Steven, while TDY in Iraq. At that point in her life she was wanting to get out of a bad situation. She is currently stationed at Robins AFB.

Steven was born in Oregon and he is the only child in his family. He is in the Army and currently stationed in Cuba. He will be returning on April 5th where he will wait for Christina to PCS to Pope AFB, North Carolina. He will be stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC.

Christina found out about First Christian Church through Fran Rutherford. Ms. Fran had encouraged Christina to come to her church. She has been going to FCC ever

since and transferred her membership on March 2, 2008. Welcome Christina.



A MAY SHOWER

In honor of Christopher Von Almen and Megan Harper, who will be married on August 9th, the church will be hosting a Wedding Shower for the couple on Sunday, May 4th. We will have a finger food luncheon immediately following church service. Chris & Megan are registered at Target and Belk's. Please mark your calendars to help celebrate with the happy couple!



Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 16th and everyone had a great time. The Sunday school would like to thank everyone who brought candy. We would also like to thank everyone who purchased tickets for the two baskets full of Fair Trade products. The baskets were raffled off during the Fellowship Dinner and the money raised will go for Fair Trade coffee to be used at church.



VBS

The first meeting for VBS will be held on April 13th in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in helping in any way, please come. Thank you.



CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

- 8 oz. foam coffee cups
- 16-20 oz. clear plastic glasses
- Regular size White napkins



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

- Laundry Powder
- Sanitary Napkins
- Cleaning supplies
- Adult inspirational books for the

library
(authors – Joyce Meyer, Joel Osteen,
T.D. Jakes)



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on March 12th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Curtis, Nadine & Lewis Scaggs, Winona Smith, Evelyn Hawkins, and Lois Crawford. The next meeting will be on April 9th at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Our custodian has reported that some of the church doors has been left unlocked several times recently. If you have been working in one of the rooms, please make certain that you have locked that door when you leave. This is very important to our church's security. Thank you.



On Sunday, April 20th, the Covenant Players will be here to provide a drama after our Fellowship Dinner. We need to provide \$250 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.



CWF GRACE GROUP

The CWF Grace group met Thurs., March 13th. After the business session, Lois Crawford gave the Study/Worship program, "Seating Arrangement at God's Table" which talked about opening our minds to a new way of being church'd together. There were nine ladies present. Spring Conference will be held at St. Andrew Christian Church in Macon on April 12th. We will provide the breakfast goodies before the meeting begins. We will also take some travel size personal toiletries to help with an outreach project of St. Andrew's. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17th.

FAMILY

I ran into a stranger as he passed by. "Oh, excuse me please" was my reply.

He said, "Please excuse me too; I wasn't watching for you."

We were very polite, this stranger and I. We went on our way and we said goodbye.

But at home a different story is told, how we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal, my son stood beside me very still.

When I turned, I nearly knocked him down. "Move out of the way," I said with a frown.

He walked away, his little heart broken. I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed, God's still small voice came to me and said,

"While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use, but the family you love, you seem to abuse.

Go and look on the kitchen floor, you'll find some flowers there by the door.

"Those are the flowers he brought for you. He picked them himself; pink, yellow and blue.

He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise. You never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."

By this time, I felt very small, and now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his bed; "Wake up, little one, wake up," I said.

"Are these the flowers you picked for me?" He smiled, "I found them, out by the tree.

I picked them because they're pretty like you. I knew you'd like them, especially the blue."

I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today; I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."

He said, Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway."

I said, "Son, I love you too, and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives.

And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family; an unwise investment indeed, don't you think?

So what is behind the story?

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

FAMILY=(F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER

(I) (L)OVE (Y)OU

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	2 Choir 7:00 Barbara Hicks Norbert & Sharon-Kay	3	4	5 Nicole Crofutt
6 4:00 CCF planning meeting Don Lawhun	7 Board Meetitg 7:30	8 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House No Bible Study 7:00 Model Club	9 Choir 7:00 Lunch Bunch 2:00	10 Jo Smith Lance Hunt	11	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast
13 4:00 VBS planning meeting	14	15 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Keith & Glenda	16 Choir 7:00 Debra Scaggs	17 CWF Grace Group 7:30	18 Irv & Sonia Shaw	19
20 Felowship Dinner Covenant Players Glenda Ewert Ted & Laurie	21	22 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Catharina Lawson	23 Choir 7:00	24 Mary & Martha CWF Group 7:00	25	26
27 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday	28	29 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	30 Choir 7:00	<p><i>"Each handicap is like a hurdle in a steeplechase, and when you ride up to it, if you throw your heart over, the horse will go along, too." Lawrence Bixby</i></p>		



United States Map

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what the United States looked like.

Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Shelby and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today."

After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she finished so quickly. "Oh", she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together."

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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