

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

May 2008 Number 5



May, 2008; it feels rather strange to be writing that date. We are nearing the end of the first decade of the Twenty-first Century. What bright shining progress have we made? How much wiser has humanity become in the first step of the new millennium? How well have we learned from the errors of our collective past?

In the political arena we have reinforced the concept that unless you have vast wealth or connections to vast wealth, political ambitions cannot take you much beyond the local level (excluding major metropolitan areas). We have also expanded the ease at which it is possible to say anything or imply anything about another person without fear of being held accountable for those statements. As a matter of fact, the more outlandish the effort the more widely it will be shared. What sane person wants to invite everyone in the world to examine and embellish their every little stumble or fall and share it with the global marketplace? Society is more interested in gossip and scandal than it is in substance and depth.

In culture, like politics, we prefer scandal and gossip over anything that requires us to seriously think and examine our own understandings and practices. We rely upon a vast array of pundits to tell us what is most important, what we truly need to know and what we should have in our homes and lives. We do not seek glowing examples of human triumph unless it includes some element of humiliation or weakness in that same person. The most idolized are the ones who get the most money, without consideration of the means of acquiring that wealth nor what is done with that wealth.

I have truly found it amusing that we now have available luxury work vehicles (pickups and off road vehicles) with fancy leathers and rich carpeting. Imagine hauling a half-ton of manure in a Cadillac or four-wheeling through the swamps in a Mercedes. Consumerism has become habit. The marketplace has convinced us to set aside reason and practicality before we enter into the store. Look at the sub-prime mortgage crisis-- do we really believe that we can buy a million dollar home for \$500 a month in 30 years?

Our communities are beginning to sound like bad reality TV. We often stop seeing our neighbor as a fellow part of the community and more like the person preventing me from winning the big prize. We would rather get into heated arguments rather than discuss ways of improving our neighborhoods. We have even stopped thinking in terms of neighborhoods. Unless you can afford a car and are willing to drive across town, it is difficult to buy a loaf of bread or a bottle of milk or visit the doctor because they have all move out to the edges of town that appear more prosperous. We draw attention away from the more neglected parts of town, and when we decide to improve those parts of town, we are often willing to sacrifice the people who cannot afford rising property values and rising taxes. In our pursuit to improve we fail to provide affordable and practical housing for the poor, and the elderly.

Now for the Church: Within the Disciples of Christ we seem to struggle with much the same problem as everyone else. We want our personal agendas to be at the forefront, regardless of the importance of those issues in the Bible. We withhold funds from the denomination because we are angry about something someone said or did. We are willing to sacrifice the Covenant Community in order to prove that we have the true

understanding of the Will of God and everyone else is wrong. We attempt to build a church where everyone looks and sounds the same, where everyone believes and practices the same, and we get upset if someone points out that we need a variety of gifts and a variety of expression and a variety of talents to successfully be the church.

First Christian Church in Warner Robins is not the perfect church, thank God! We do not always get it right; however, we are trying to get it right. We see the need for variety. We see the need for people from all walks of life and all streams of this community. We welcome everyone who walks in the door without asking for a justification of their faith and worthiness. We do these things because we challenge ourselves not to sit in judgement, but to love as we have been loved.

We are now striving to reach out and share a word of wholeness and hope to other people. We are not the place to come and be saved, rather we are the place to come and discover that God's Grace has already done that and we would like you to join in the celebration of that gift and the reconnection of hope in the lives of others. We are decidedly in the world, but are trying to live with one foot and all our hope in the world of God, hoping to show God's presence in this world.

Shalom, *Darrell*

MAY ELDERS & DEACONS

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

CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF monthly breakfast was held on Saturday, April 12th 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 May 3rd. This day is also our church clean up day. Everyone is welcome to come and eat a good breakfast so you will have lots of energy to spruce up church sanctuary, Sunday school rooms and yard.

Hopefully we will have a big crowd as there are many projects to be done.



MAY NURSERY WORKERS

May 4 Juliet Nolde
May 11 Gidget Hurlbert
May 18 Nicole Crofutt
May 25 Margaret Hicks

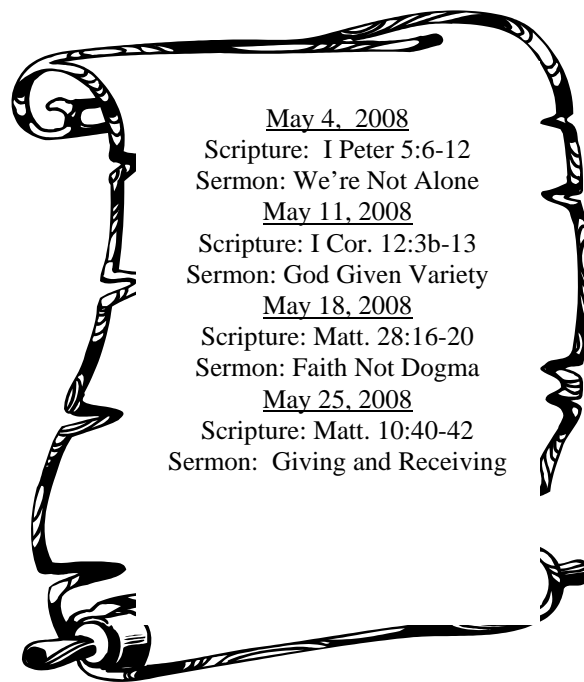


Feed My Sheep

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.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Our custodian has reported that some of the church doors have 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.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Jannet Thompson and sons joined our church family on April 6, 2008. They have lived here in Georgia for three years. They are from a military family and have lived in Germany, Nebraska, and Louisiana.

Jannett is from Texas and works as the human resource representative at Panaprint in Macon.

Matt Thompson is a senior at Houston County High School and will be graduating this year. He plans on going to Valdosta State in the fall. He enjoys listening to music and hopes to one day become a movie director. He also enjoys church camp very much.

Mitchell is a freshman at Houston County High School. He enjoys competing with the ROTC Drill Team. He also enjoys playing soccer. After high school he plans on joining the Air Force to become a meteorologist.

Ethan is in the sixth grade and attends Mossy Creek Middle School. He plays the string bass for the school. He also enjoys playing soccer and hopes to become a professional soccer player one day.

We are very pleased to have the Thompson family as part of our church family. Please welcome them .

Evelyn Hawkins, and Lois Crawford. We really missed some of our regulars and hope that they will be able to join us again very soon. Our next gathering will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14th at Ole Times Country Buffet.

CHILI COOK-OFF



If you don't like chili you really missed a great time! On Sunday, March 30th the women's M&M CWF group sponsored a chili cook-off by challenging the men of the church to get in the kitchen and "really cook". The men did not disappoint us with 13 entries from 11 participants. They really displayed their cooking expertise. Judging was done with pocket change. The chili pot with the most change won. This year's winner was Corey Gunnin with his "Old Smokey's Tennessee Best Chili." Cory was crowned our "Bean King". Second place went to Randy Bickley for his "Secret Recipe Chili".

The M&M group raised \$409.41 to help provide new paint as needed around the church. Also the group says "Thank You" to all those who helped make this fundraiser a success with their donations of time, chili, dessert and attendance.

Here is a list of our entries:

Mike Rogers – Classic Chili
Cody Westbrooks – Cody's Sweet Chili
David Von Almen – Hooter's Best
Denny McReynolds – Texas Surprise
Bill Bartoe – Bartoe's Sweet & Sour
Matt Thompson – Greatest Chili in the World
Randy Bickley – Secret Recipe & Red Hot Chili Peepers (dessert chili)
Cory Gunnin – Old Smokey's Tennessee Best (regular and hot)
Darrell Vandervort – Burning River
Mike Hurlbert – Winning Chili
Scott Nolde – Smak Yo Momma Chili



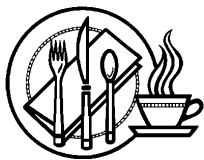
CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

39 gal. Trash bags
Clear plastic dessert plates
Clear plastic cups – 12 ounces



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Sanitary Napkins
Laundry detergent
Canned goods
Notebook paper



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on April 9th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Winona Smith, David Von Almen,



CWF GRACE GROUP

The CWF Grace group met Thurs., April 17th. There were eight ladies attending the meeting. After the business meeting, Lois Crawford gave the Study/Worship program, "When We Are Betrayed at the Table." The hostess was

Sharon-Kay Duncan. Five ladies attended Spring Conference at St. Andrew Christian Church in Macon on Sat. April 12th.



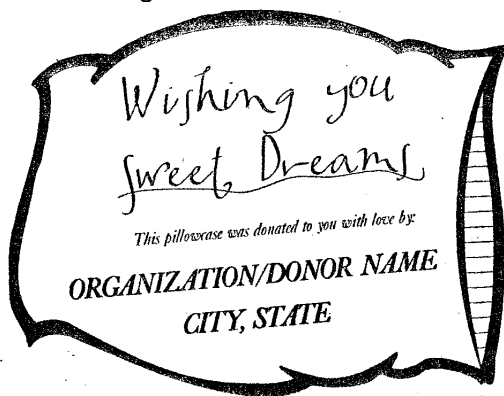
A MAY SHOWER

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. Please mark your calendars to help celebrate with the happy couple!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held June 8-12th. Below is a partial list of things we will need for classes. If anyone can donate any of these items, please contact Mary Jane Rogers.

- 20 oz empty clear drink bottles
- Cooking oil (16 oz)
- Funnel
- Drinking straws
- Clay
- Distilled water (1 gallon)
- Salt (1 box)
- Toothpicks
- 9" white plastic plates
- Magnet
- Colored sand (Wal-Mart just before the garden center – 20# for \$6.94)
- White play sand (Wal-Mart \$2.84 per bag) The white sand is for a sandbox.
- Food coloring



Sweet Dreams Pillowcase Ministry has donated over 5,500 pillowcases in the last several years to Egleston/Scottish Rite Children's Hospital in Atlanta, The Children's Hospital in Macon, and

to Shrine Children's Hospitals nationwide. The Georgia Christian Women's Fellowship is making this a project for all CWF groups to help make more pillowcases available to the hospitals. If you would like to bring some cheer and comfort to children away from home receiving medical treatment, you can be part of this project. The pillowcases must be new and unwashed. They can be colorful, in a variety of patterns for both boys and girls of all ages. They may be embroidered, but cannot have anything glued on them. If you sew, about 1 yard of material will make one standard size pillowcase. Our church will be collecting these pillowcases and in October our CWF ladies will take them to Retreat to be distributed. There will be a box labeled Pillowcase Project in the Fellowship Hall on the West wall where you can put your donated pillowcases. Thank you for your help in this very special project for children.



MOTHER'S DAY

In 1907, a lady in Philadelphia, Ann Jarvis, began lobbying for a day when our nation would honor mothers. She persuaded the leaders of the church her mother attended to designate the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. By 1911 and after Mrs. Jarvis had written countless letters to political authorities across the nation Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday. He chose the second Sunday in May for the annual celebration. The second Sunday in May was the anniversary of the death of Mrs. Jarvis' mother.



MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

We remember, O Lord, all those men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Do not let us breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without remembering with great gratitude those who gave the last full measure of devotion—their very lives—for our benefit. May they now know the peace of eternity and joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 2 3 8:00 Men's Breakfast & Church Work Day
4 Wedding Shower for Christopher & Megan Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	5 Board Meeting 7:30	6 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	7 Choir 7:00 Sarah Cook	8 Ruth Griffith	9	10 Janice Fentem
11 Nadine Scaggs Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	12	13 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00 Howard Jordan	14 Choir 7:00 Lunch Bunch 2:00 Terry & Steve Harper	15 CWF Grace 7:30	16 Tyler Hurlbert	17
18 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	19	20 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	21 Choir 7:00 Debbie Smith	22 CWF Mary & Martha 7:00	23 Beth Bickley	24 CYF Spaghetti Dinner
25 "Feed My Sheep Sunday" Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	26	27 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	28 Choir 7:00	29	30 Greg Holmes	31 Darrell & Marsha Vandervort

Twinkies and Root Beer

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the moist beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally! ~Author Unknown~

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