

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

Pastor's Corner

I want to start with two citations. The first is from William H. Willimon, the Methodist bishop in Alabama. He says, "John Wesley said that there is no such thing as a solitary Christian. The faith must be shared in order to be kept. Christianity is a social religion. It becomes dwarfed and blighted when alone, it thrives in numbers. But true to our rugged individualistic self-centeredness, we have tried to practice the Christian faith as if it were a home correspondence course in self-improvement. The great heresy in American popular religion is the notion that religion is a private affair, a secret contract between the believer and God."

The second comes from Eugene H. Peterson's translation of the Bible called The Message. This is Psalm 8.

"God, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name. Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you; toddlers shout the songs that drown out enemy talk and silence atheist babble. I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous, your handmade sky-jewelry, Moon and stars mounted in their settings. Then I look at my micro-self and wonder why take a second look our way? Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods, bright with Eden's dawn light. You put us in charge of your handcrafted world, repeated to us your Genesis-charge, made us lords of the sheep and cattle, even animals out in the wild, birds flying and fish swimming, whales singing in the ocean deeps. God, brilliant Lord, your name echoes around the world."

Several things have struck me this week, a discussion on "Speaking of Faith" involving physics and faith and theodicy (why do bad things happen if God is good and just) and

news stories about floods and other disasters and the beating death of an infant, and the global impact of gas prices and food shortages. As a Christian, how do we respond? What does it all mean? Where is God?

Putting these concerns in the light of the two passages at the beginning of this printed journey, I think I see a possible answer. As people of faith, we do not stand alone. Our faith, as Willimon said, is at its best when we come together. June's "Disciple World" had a news brief about a church in need of repair and the Interfaith community that came to their aid; Muslim, Jews and Christian working together to repair a church. Talk about a Miracle Day! One church alone could not care for itself, yet the community of faith working together could.

According to the Psalmist, God created you and me to be just slightly less than God. According to Jesus, we as disciples are called to do things greater than He did. Maybe the question to ask in the face of cruelty and disaster is not where is God or why God didn't do something. Instead, maybe we should ask ourselves, where were those whom God made as just slightly less than God when there was a crisis or a need? Where were the ones to do greater things than Jesus?

God has given us the gifts, the Spirit and the example of how to overcome the challenges we face. We cannot stop natural disaster, but we have the strength to respond to lift up those who have fallen. Our greatest shame and sin in the face of evil and crisis is to sit back and merely wring our hands and ask why someone doesn't do something. A wise man said that for evil to succeed all that is required is for a good person to do nothing.

Let us put away our private religion and embrace the community of Christianity and extend hands of hope and fellowship to other

faiths that we might begin to truly resemble the One in whose image we were created.

Shalom, *Darrell*

JULY ELDERS & DEACONS

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

CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF monthly breakfast was held on Saturday, June 7th 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 September 6th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL A BEACH PARTY AT CHURCH

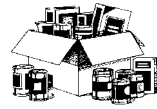
On Sunday, June 8th at 6:00, a Beach party started at church and didn't end until Thursday night, June 12th. Our Vacation Bible School was held at that time and the theme for this year was a Beach Party. We had sand, beach balls, water and HOT weather, perfect conditions for VBS. We had about seven children per night and as one of them said, "This is the best Bible School ever. I want it to be the same next year", Dalton Crofutt. The children had a Bible story, crafts, music and science every night. They also had supper provided and they played games. Of course, we couldn't have done all of this without the help of the following people: Jo Smith, Juliet Nolde, Gidget Hurlbert, Ashlie Scissons, David and Ann Von Almen, Sara and Jessica Hebenstreit, Corey, Pat and Juanita Gunnin, Stephanie Postell, Chris Rogers, and Darrell Vandervort. I would like to thank everyone who helped and who donated the food and supplies. We couldn't have done it without you.

Mary Jane Rogers



JULY NURSERY WORKERS

July 5	Jo Smith
July 13	Margaret Hicks
July 20	Juliet Nolde
July 27	Mike Hurlbert

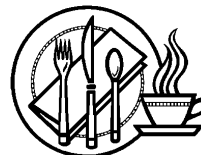


Feed My Sheep

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 203 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.

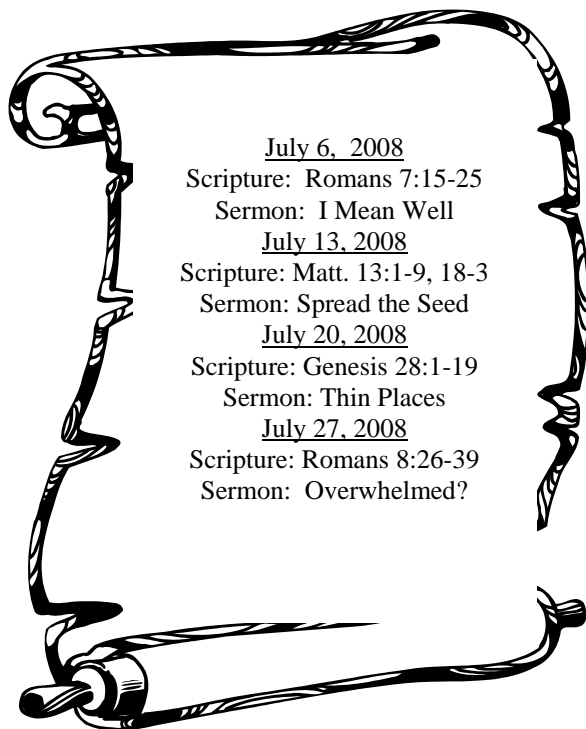


LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on June 11th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Curtis, Nadine & Lewis Scaggs, Keith & Glenda Ewert, Darrell Vandervort and David Von Almen. 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, July 9th at Ole Times Country Buffet.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF OBSERVATIONS

- Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather; it pays no attention to criticism.
- How is it that 'one careless match' can start a forest fire, but takes a whole box to start a campfire?



July 6, 2008

Scripture: Romans 7:15-25

Sermon: I Mean Well

July 13, 2008

Scripture: Matt. 13:1-9, 18-3

Sermon: Spread the Seed

July 20, 2008

Scripture: Genesis 28:1-19

Sermon: Thin Places

July 27, 2008

Scripture: Romans 8:26-39

Sermon: Overwhelmed?

come and enjoy the activities for children. It is being held on Saturday, July 26th from 1:00 until 5:00. The activities for children 12 and under will be playground activities including:

- Dunking Booth
- Water Slide
- Combo Bounce House with slide
- Obstacle Course

Bring your swimsuits, etc., lawn chairs, a blanket to sit on, and a picnic lunch for your family. Watermelons will be furnished for free. There is a lake stocked with fish so bring your poles and bait if you want to try your fishing skills. There is room to play ball, toss Frisbees, and other activities.

The Al Sihah Shrine Temple & park are located off Rocky Creek Road past the post office. Turn left on Jennifer Drive and then right on Mecca Drive. The road ends at the Shrine property. Turn in the gate and follow the road to the activity building and covered pavilion.

CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS



- 39 gal. Trash bags
- Red or blue 20 oz. plastic cups
- Foam oblong divided plates
- Aluminum foil
- Napkins (white regular size)
- 5 lb. sugar



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

- Sanitary Napkins (all sizes)
- Midol (generic is fine)
- Cold medication
- Allergy Medication
- Pain Medication
- Mosquito repellent for women & children
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Wash Cloths & towels



FAMILY DAY AT THE SHRINE PARK

This function is a Free Family Oriented Event hosted by Al Sihah Shrine Temple in Macon. They have invited First Christian Church families to



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Ann Glover transferred her membership to FCC on Sunday, June 15th. Ann was born on April 22nd in Idaho, lived for a time in Nevada, moved to California in 1943, where she retired in 1984 after serving 35 years in California State government. During these years she earned a MBA in Business Management and won an award of over \$10,000 for a cost saving idea. She returned to Idaho after her husband died in 1990. She sold her ranch there and moved to Warner Robins in 2002 to be near John and Mary Ann. Almost immediately she became active and held offices in Warner Robins Newcomer's Club. She enjoys traveling, reading, socializing and all forms of art. The most memorable occasions in her life were her marriage to Joe Glover, the birth

of John , and the pinnacle, her rebirth in Jesus Christ on February 18, 1965.

- John & Mary Ann Glover transferred their memberships to FCC on Sunday, June 15th. John was born on Jan. 7th and raised in Sacramento, CA. Mary Ann was born May 12th in Rockford, IL. They met on an airplane in Atlanta in 1996. They were married on Nov. 8, 1996 in Payette, Idaho. John retired from the Air Force in 1996 after 29 yrs. as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Chief Master Sgt. John's hobbies are taking care of Mary Ann, automotive restoration, photography, drag racing, Corvettes, birding, fishing, and RVing. John works for the Civil Service at HQ Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AF Base. Mary Ann is a Sr. Regional Clinical Research Associate for Kendle International. Mary Ann's hobbies are taking care of John, her yard, birding, scrapbooking, photography, and many others she doesn't have time for now due to a busy work schedule. They are both computer literate.

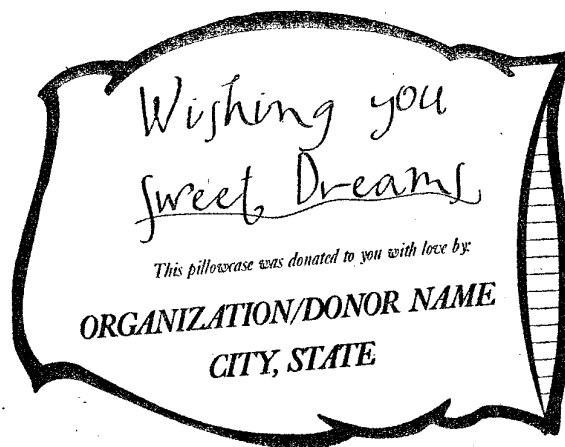
They are glad to be back at First Christian Church and look forward to getting more involved in church activities as their workload allows. They appreciate the warm welcome, our church's friendship and prayers and extend their Christian love to all of us as well.



CWF GRACE GROUP

The CWF Grace group met Thurs., June 19th. There were 10 ladies attending the meeting. After our covered dish meal, Lois Crawford installed the new officers for the coming year. She presented each officer with a potted plant. The new officers are: President – Brenda McReynolds, Vice President – Glenda Ewert, Secretary – Margaret Hicks, Treasurer – Sharon-Kay Duncan, Service chairpersons – Ruth Griffith & Billie Milliken and Study/Worship – Winona Smith. Our next

meeting will be held on Sept. 18th. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend.



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 45" wide 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 is a red a box labeled Pillowcase Project in the Fellowship Hall where you can put your donated pillowcases. Thank you for your help in this very special project for children.

If anyone would like to donate to this project and does not like to sew, you may buy one yard of material suitable for kids for each pillowcase and give it to Sharon Kay and she will sew them. Please don't wait until Sept. or she may not have time to get them sewn.

Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment. Jean de la Bruyere

JULY 2008

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Juliet Nolde	2	3 Evelyn Hawkins	4	5
6	7 Joe & Lisa Lombardo	8 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00 Jerri Bosarge	9 Lunch Bunch 2:00 Keith Ewert Tony Hicks	10	11 Winona Smith	12
13	14 Lonnie & Margaret Hicks	15 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Carl Shaw	16 Newsletter articles due	17	18	19 Fran Rutherford Laurie Cook Stan King
20 Fellowship Dinner 6:00	21	22 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	23	24 CWF Mary & Martha 7:00	25 Wayne Scaggs	26
27 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday	28	29 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Dalton & Dakota Crofutt	30 Facilities Mtg. 7:00 Corey Gunnin	31	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Psalm 33:12</i></p>	



MY TROUBLE TREE

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job, a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

When I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles as he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again." "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

God Bless. Have a blessed day!!!

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

**100 North Houston Road
Warner Robins, GA 31093**

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