

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

100 North Houston Road

Warner Robins, GA 31093

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Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00

February 2009 Number 2



Yesterday I listened to the Inaugural Speech of the new president. He told us that we had a hard time

ahead of us and that no single individual, elected or volunteer, could change the state of the world. Rather, it will require all of us, joining together to work and sweat and strive to improve not only our nation, but also the world. He also indicated that we could not sit back and only watch as others tried; we must all do something, even when we do not believe that there is anything we can do to help.

He is not only correct about what is needed to improve our nation and world; this is also the way we improve our congregation, region, and denomination. No single minister, board chair, or elder can do it all. No board of elders, deacons or general board can do it all. We must all pitch in to make our church the best it can be, for those here now and for those who will come in the future.

Jesus challenged His followers to leave behind their selfish desires and to follow Him. I am not encouraging anyone to quit their job, or leave their families! I am encouraging everyone, in the words of Jesus, to be a servant to all, all the people in our church and all the people in our community, state, nation, and world in whatever way God leads.

We use the word committee to describe our congregation's ministries. It isn't the best word, but it shouldn't stop the ministries we do now or can do in the future.

Stewardship is not just about balancing the budget and paying the bills. It must be about managing all the gifts given to us by God and seeing better ways of using those gifts.

Worship is not limited to the needs of Sunday morning but should seek as many ways of worshiping God as will best serve those here, now and tomorrow.

Christian Education is not about Sunday School alone, but about any effort that seeks to challenge and improve our congregation's religious, spiritual, and general education. The day we believe that we have learned all there is to learn is the day we demonstrate our deepest ignorance. How, what, when, and why are the questions that will allow us to provide for the continuing education of this congregation. We should not limit ourselves to what is traditionally thought of as church education. We should explore classes that enrich this community such as literacy, health, technology, and others.

Outreach is more than how much we send to Indianapolis, Macon and Special offerings. It is about all the work done to serve our church and world. It is not just dollars and cents, but time and skills shared to improve the lives of those around us. What different ways do we currently reach out and what new gifts can we offer?

Music enriches our life, but Sunday morning is never long enough to be blessed by all the music in our church and community. Lisa with the choir and worship music and Sara with the new hand bells do not have to be the limit, nor the only

sources of music. Make a joyful noise, and sing praises to our God on high are words we use regularly in prayers and worship. Lets do more than just speak those words.

The property of the church is not the only calling of the property committee, nor is it limited to those who know how to operate tools. We want to present an inviting face to the community and provide for the ease of access to all who seek God at 100 N. Houston Rd. This is the ministry of the property committee. Is it your gift?

When we gather together for fellowship or to care for a part of the church family, we are involved in the ministry of Fellowship and Service. This ministry allows us to grow closer together and to meet the needs of families in difficulty. Like all families we can disagree on some things, and yet still laugh, play and cry together. This ministry builds the community of the church, *koinonia* to use the biblical term.

How do we tell this area about who we are and what we do? This is the ministry of Church Growth. How do we get our Disciple's voice to be heard in the midst of all the other church voices in Warner Robins and the area? Who will share our story?

Membership cares and provides communication for our church. They make sure prayer concerns are shared, birthdays and anniversaries are remembered, and important information is known. What else could we do to care for all who enter our doors?

What can you do to improve the ministries of this church? What gifts can you share? Where do you need to stretch yourself in following the One who makes Apostles out of Disciples?

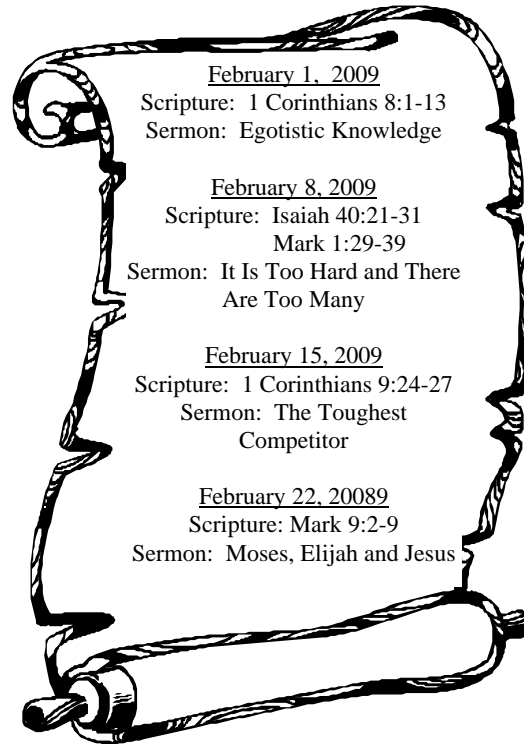
Shalom, *Darrell*



Feed My Sheep

We gave about 632 pounds of food to the local food pantry in

2008. We have given 40 lbs. so far in 2009. The Food pantry serves about 90 families in our area every week.



February 1, 2009

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Sermon: Egotistic Knowledge

February 8, 2009

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1:29-39
Sermon: It Is Too Hard and There Are Too Many

February 15, 2009

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Sermon: The Toughest Competitor

February 22, 20089

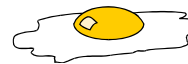
Scripture: Mark 9:2-9
Sermon: Moses, Elijah and Jesus

**FEBRUARY
ELDERS & DEACONS**

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in Feb. are: Elders – Denny & Brenda McReynolds and Deacons – Evelyn Carroll, Melissa Hebenstreit, Mitchell Thompson and Fran Rutherford .



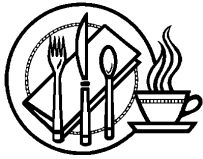
CMF BREAKFAST



The CMF met on Sat., January 3rd. There were seven people attending the breakfast prepared by Ann and David Von Almen. They will meet again on February 7th at 8:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited.

FEB. NURSERY WORKERS

- Feb. 1 Juliet Nolde
- Feb. 8 Ruth Griffith
- Feb. 15 Gidget Hurlbert
- Feb. 22 Margaret Hicks



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Jan. 14th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Bob, Gladys, Janice & Diane Fentem, Keith & Glenda Ewert, Curtis, Nadine & Lewis Scaggs, Lois Crawford, Winona Smith, Juanita & Corey Gunnin, Evelyn Hawkins, and Lonnie & Margaret Hicks. The next gathering will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11th at Ole Times Country Buffet.



CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

- Paper towels
- 39 gallon trash bags
- Bathroom tissue
- 8 oz. Styrofoam coffee cups
- Syrofoam soup bowls
- Aluminum foil
- White napkins
- Ziplock bags (quart & 1 gallon size)
- Rectangle styrofoam divided plates
- Sugar
- Coffee

CWF GRACE GROUP

We met on Jan. 15th at 7:00. There were nine ladies attending. After the business meeting, Jo Smith gave the worship/study lesson, titled "The Poor Hear Good News." Billie Milliken was the hostess. Our next meeting will be on Thurs., Feb. 19th at 7:00.

The Safe House reported that the children and mothers loved the Christmas stockings we gave to them at Christmas. The mothers were undergoing a stressful time anyway, and I was told that tears came in their eyes when a special gift was handed to them from their child. The children had tears and much laughter when they received their stockings. The Safe House lady said they were all blessed by our thoughtfulness.



VALENTINE'S DINNER

CWF Grace Group will have their annual Valentine's Dinner on Feb. 8th right after church service. The menu will consist of:

- Sliced ham or turkey
- Dressing & gravy
- Green Beans
- Sweet Potato Casserole
- Rolls
- Assorted salads and desserts
- Coffee, tea, or punch

The cost is: \$5.00 for adults
\$12.50 for a family
\$2.50 for children under 12

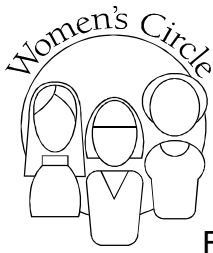
No reservations are required. Come back after church service and enjoy a festive time. There will even be a door prize.



VALENTINE PARTY

On Saturday, Feb. 14th, the Chi Rho and CYF will host a Valentine Party for the children of the church. Parents may bring their children to the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. and leave them until 8:00 p.m. (you MUST come back and pick up your children). We will provide games and entertainment as well as dinner. The youth would like to give this Valentine gift to the families with young children so you may enjoy Valentine's Day without having your children along with you or having to find and pay a sitter. Please call the church office (923-1536) or let Sara Hebenstreit or Darrell Vandervort know how many children you will be bringing so we can plan the food.

**Happy Valentine's Day from the
Chi Rho and CYF of First Christian
Church.**



CWF M&M GROUP

The M&M Group met on January 21st with a good meeting and plans for 2009. This year we are going to do a Bible study called "The Friendships of Women: The Beauty and Power of God's Plan for Us" by Dee Brestin. The group had an introduction to the study at the January meeting and will be diving into the study starting at the February 18th meeting. All women are welcome and are encouraged to join us. If you have questions about the group, please call Juliet Nolde at 478-342-0356 or email at jwnolde@gmail.com.

SUPER SOUP SUNDAY

The CWF M&M Group is hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, March 1st, immediately after church called "Super Soup Sunday". Families, enter your favorite soup and win the title of "Super Soup"! The M&M Group will furnish cornbread, rolls, crackers, and PB&J sandwiches. Donations of brownies and cookies are requested. Judging will be done on the best soup. Bring your spare change to vote for your favorite soup. All funds raised will go towards church improvements.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our church is growing and we need to increase the number of our children's Sunday School classes. Educating children through the teachings in the Bible is an important part of the church. Would you consider teaching one of the classes to help raise our children in the ways of Christ? Pray! Think! Look at the cute, smart kids in our church. If you would like to help, please call Juliet Nolde at 478-342-0356 or email at jwnolde@gmail.com. Thank you!

ACOLYTES

We need Acolytes! As the prelude begins, the Acolytes bring in the lit tapers, symbolizing the presence of God, and light the candles on both sides of the altar and then extinguish the tapers. This symbolizes God's presence in our worship. During the invitation hymn, the Acolytes come forward, light the tapers, extinguish the candles, and wait with Rev. Darrell for the blessing and charge; then with him, symbolically take the light of God out into the world, going before us, to do His work. Anyone interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact Juliet Nolde at 478-342-0356 or email at jwnolde@gmail.com. This is a special part of our worship and all children interested are welcome to participate.



YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday worship was a little different on January 18th. The youth conducted the service with the assistance of several adults. It was the Chi Rho and CYF's way of letting the congregation experience a bit of the Youth-a-palooza which they had attended the week before. The service began with Ethan Thompson acting as lay leader and our special "little" acolytes, Randy Bickley and Charlie Hebenstreit lighting the candles on the communion table. Melissa Hebenstreit offered the Prayers of the People and Mitchell Thompson called us to communion. Melissa and Jessica Hebenstreit and Mitchell and Ethan Thompson served communion by intinction to the congregation. Andrea McCleese called the church to share their gifts and blessed them when they had been collected. They shared special music and taught the congregation the song "God Is Good All the Time." Sara Hebenstreit accompanied the youth on guitar.

At two points during the service, small skits were presented that used very common themes to communicate that God is everywhere we are and we are never separated from God. Jessica delivered the sermon and called us to look for God Moments—times when God is especially visible in our actions or the actions of others. The service provided all of us with the opportunity to learn that our youth have something to teach us.

If you would like to see what the youth experienced at the 2009 Youth-a-palooza at Epworth go to www.gadisciples.org and click on the link for Youth-a-palooza. There is a musical slide show as well as pictures of all the small groups and a daily photo diary. The program is planned by the members of YAC, youth and adults who are taking leadership roles. Our YAC representative, Melissa Hebenstreit, is very involved and was on stage leading gatherings and worship events throughout the weekend.



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Bathroom Tissue
Paper towels
Canned food (vegetables)
Trash bags (30 gallon)

A WISH LIST FOR OUR CHURCH

Kitchen:

- Canisters for sugar and tea bags
- Regular size set of cookware
- New knife set

Nursery:

- New mattress and bedding for baby bed (27 1/4" x 51 5/8")
- 2 toy bins
- curtains/blinds
- new playpen
- changing pad cover/mat
- AA batteries (9)
- 2 receiving blankets
- air fresheners for bathroom

Youth Room:

- Trash can
- Television
- Entertainment Center
- Nerf basketball
- Snacks for refrigerator

YESTERDAY – TODAY – TOMORROW

Yesterday I met a stranger...Today this stranger is my friend. Had I not taken the time to say hello, or return a smile, or shake a hand, or listen, I would not have known this person. Yesterday would have turned into today and our chance meeting would be gone.

Yesterday I hugged someone very dear to me. Today they are gone...and tomorrow will not bring them back. Wouldn't it be nice if we all knew tomorrow would be here? But this is not to be, so take the time TODAY to give a hug, a smile, and an "I love you."

JUST FOR TODAY, smile at a stranger; listen to someone's heart; drop a coin where a child can find it; learn something new, then teach it to someone; tell someone you're thinking of them; hug a loved one; don't hold a grudge; don't be afraid to say "I'm sorry", look a child in the eye and tell them how great they are.



Don't kill that spider in your house. He's just lost so show him the way out; look beyond the face of the person into their heart; make a promise and keep it; call someone for no other reason than to just say "hi"; show kindness to an animal; stand up for what you believe in; smell the rain, feel the breeze, listen to the wind; use all your senses to their fullest; cherish all your TODAYS.

LOVABLE QUOTES

A smile is a gently curved line that sets a lot of things straight.

Your heart is the happiest when it beats for others.

February 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Ben Campbell | 2 Board Meeting 7:30 | 3 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House No Bible Study | 4 | 5 Choir Practice 7:00 Mike Hurlbert | 6 | 7 8:00 Men's Breakfast Gidget Hurlbert |
| 8  Valentine Dinner after church service Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Theresa Nolde | 9 Jessica Hebenstreeit | 10 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00 George & Betty Poore | 11 Lunch Bunch Meet 2:00 | 12 Choir Practice 7:00 Terry Harper | 13 | 14  Chi Rho/CYF Valentine Party for children under middle school age 4:00-8:00 |
| 15 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 | 16 Curtis & Nadine Scaggs | 17 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 | 18 CWF M&M Group 7:00 | 19 Choir Practice 7:00 CWF Grace Group 7:00 Mary Jane Rogers | 20 | 21 |
| 22 "Feed My Sheep Sunday" ChiRho/CYF 4:00 Tony & Barbara Hicks | 23 | 24 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 | 25 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 Facilities Committee 7:00 | 26 Choir Practice 7:00 | 27 Brenda McReynolds | 28 David & Ann Von Almen |

When love is a verb

As it happens, every Sunday when I attend worship, I enjoy a sense of peace. An inner validation that God loves me, and that I love God. In this weekly activity of going to church, I affirm my belief. Many times I have wondered why it takes going into church, sitting down and participating in the service to get that inner serenity.

The Sunday after Valentine's Day the light bulb went on. I knew why this act of worship was so meaningful to me. It is one of the few times that my love for Christ is a verb. I am actively participating. Even more enlightening was the understanding that my feelings of calmness and wholeness are the result of God's active love of me.

Understanding that love is something I can actively do, not just something I feel, is a realization. Accepting that God's love for me is just as dynamic is a revelation. Acting on these principles is the reward.

--Beth Dyer in "To Love or Be in Love"
Desert Southwest Journal

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