

WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

100 North Houston Road
Warner Robins, GA 31093

(478) 923-1536

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www.fcc-wr.org

Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am

Dec. 2009 Number 12



Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Joyous Kwanza. There is much debate this year about holiday greetings. I find it fascinating that we can get all worked up about the words shared in a store as we buy, buy, buy in the name of Jesus. Christmas is not preserved and Christ is not kept in Christmas by the words we use as we bury ourselves in debt to buy things for other people to add to the stuff that already possesses them. Here is a plan to keep Christ in Christmas no matter what words you use.

Do not leave worship out of your holiday plans! After all, Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Why not go to church and thank God for this special child. Also have moments of worship at home. You do not have to preach (if you have children, they will tell you that you already preach enough), but you should spend time in prayer and study. If you have children, include them in special story times, light a family advent wreath, pray together. The church library and most bookstores have resources readily available for this.

Jesus preached that the Sabbath was made for man, therefore, it also translates that Christmas is made for us as well and not the other way around. Do not let the holidays take over your life. Say "no" to some of the demands that will wear you out physically, emotionally and spiritually. Remember the scene of a quiet stable, with shepherds gathered around, all is calm, all is peaceful. Create space during this season for calm and peace in your home. It will be a gift long treasured and may even become shared all year long.

Share the value of gift giving, not by spending more and more, but by sharing special gifts that will have meaning. Children are capable of

understanding the importance of sharing with others at an early age. Make the holiday about giving gifts to others rather than merely about what they want Santa to bring to them. Take the child to pick out a toy to give away to Toys For Tots, or pick an angel from a tree and fill the need for someone else. Try to select someone about the same age as your child, someone who probably shares the same likes and dislikes. Help them select something to give away. That can become a tradition that the child will treasure all of their lives.

.As for other gifts, make them more personal. Focus on the reason we share gifts this time of year. We give gifts because we have been given a very special gift. If we take the time to really give from our hearts to each other, we may find it more satisfying than buying huge piles of stuff that will be set aside before the next year ends. If you feel the person would understand and appreciate the gift, try giving a gift in their name to their favorite charity, or try a variety of other choices such as Habitat for Humanity, Project Heifer, Bread of the World or even Week of Compassion.

Do not buy into the war of words over the proper greeting for this time of year. The purpose of the season is to share love, hope, and peace for all peoples. This is best done, not with words, but with actions. A wise early Christian told his flock that they should preach the Gospel at all times, and that only when necessary should they use words. The love of God in Christ will be far more visible when a small number act out of love and charity than if all the nation shouted "Merry Christmas" at the same time. Let your actions express the joy of the season and the right words will follow.

Shalom and Merry Christmas to all. *Darrell*

We have heard from many of you regarding how you would prefer to receive this newsletter in the new year. Please let us know if you would like to receive it electronically through the internet or if you would prefer a printed copy mailed to your house. You can call the church (478-923-1536), write to use, or send an email (pastor@fcc-wr.org) We wish to communicate regularly with everyone using the best formats possible to reach all who read this newsletter and feel connected to First Christian in Warner Robins. Let us know your preferences, and we will keep sharing the Good News from Warner Robins.

Shalom, Darrell



Howard Jordan (health)
 Novy & Mary Ellen Foland (health)

DEC. ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve are: Elders – Tony Hicks and Scott Nolde and Deacons – Ann Von Almen, Nicole Hicks, Jerri Bosarge and Barbara Hicks.

DEC. NURSERY LADIES

Dec. 6	Melissa & Angie
Dec. 13	Ruth Griffith
Dec. 20	Mike Hurlbert
Dec. 27	Margaret Hicks

CMF BREAKFAST



Ten people attended the breakfast on Nov. 7th. The next meeting will be Sat., Dec. 5th and this is the day of the Warner Robins Christmas parade. We will be giving out hot drinks and cookies again this year. We will need help giving out the drinks and we need donations of cookies or other baked goods to go with the hot drinks. Your help is very much appreciated. This is a good out reach ministry that our church is providing our fellow citizens.

LUNCH BUNCH NEWS



The Lunch Bunch met on Nov. 11th at 2:00 at Ole` Times Country Buffet. We missed several of our regulars and hope they will be back with us soon. Those in attendance were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Winona Smith & Lillian Perry, Bob, Gladys, Diane & Janice Fentem & friends, Mickey Breedin & Jaxen Garcia, Curtis, Nadine Scaggs & grandchildren Bryson and Logan, and Glenda Ewert. We will meet again on Dec. 9th at 2:00 at Ole` Times Country Buffet. Come on out and join the group.

CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS



Toilet Paper
 Divided Oblong foam plates
 Sugar



CWF GRACE GROUP


The CWF Grace Group met at 7:00 on Nov. 19th. The program was given by Jo Smith from the CWF periodical "Just Women" and entitled "The Letter" and "Giving in Tough Times" Seven ladies attended. Billie Milliken brought refreshments. We made \$804.00 from our Christmas bazaar & mini yard sale on the 21st. We thank everyone who donated baked goods and items for the bazaar or yard sale.



CWF M&M GROUP

The M&M (Mary & Martha) Group will meet at O'Charley's on Dec. 17th at 6:30 to celebrate

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 8:00 Bible Study 7:00	2 Choir Practice 7:00	3 Russ Cooper	4 Bob & Gladys Fentem Thorin Staub	5 8:00 Men's Breakfast (Serving hot drinks to WR parade participants)
6 ChiRho/CYF 4:00	7 Board Meeting 7:30 Gavin Edmondson	8 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 8:00 Model Club 7:00 Bible Study 7:00	9 Lunch Bunch 2:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Mary Smith	10 CWF Grace 6:00 at Brenda McReynolds' home	11	12
13 Fellowship Dinner 6:00	14 William Griffith	15 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 8:00 Bible Study 7:00 Margaret Hicks Joan Ladzinske	16 Choir Practice 7:00	17 CWF M&M go to O'Charley's 6:30 Ted Cook	18 Matthew Thompson	19
20 ChiRho/CYF 4:00	21	22 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 8:00 Bible Study 7:00	23 Choir Practice 7:00 Kyle McReynolds	24	25 	26
27 "Feed My Sheep Sunday" ChiRho/CYF 4:00	28	29 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 8:00 Bible Study 7:00	30 Choir Practice 7:00	31 Haley Crofutt Austin Hurlbert Hunter Hicks		

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the season with friends. Please call Gidget at 478-718-4600 to RSVP by the 15th.



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Laundry detergent
Dish detergent
Plastic glasses – 8 oz.
Wash cloths & Bath towels
Plastic silverware
Dishwasher detergent
Toilet paper
Kleenix, small boxes
Paper towels
Hand sanitizers
Household cleaners



Feed My Sheep

We have given about 280 pounds of food to the local food pantry so far in 2009. The Food pantry serves about 90 families in our area every week.

Christmas Characters; Who Are You?

Christmas is almost here again. Will the birth of Jesus be just another celebration of a 2,000 year old event? The birth of Jesus is not merely an old historical event. It is an every moment happening. It occurs every time we open ourselves and welcome Jesus into ourselves. It occurs every time a non-Believer hears about Jesus.

Year after year we have been putting together the stable...angels, lambs, shepherds, etc, etc to celebrate the event, but we have been missing the most important of all...ourselves. For if we are not present at the birth of Jesus, celebrating this event is empty and meaningless.

So which character do we find ourselves to be at the birth of Jesus. Do we need to change our attitude, character and mind? Who are you at the birth of Jesus?

ARE YOU:

~A "STAR"~

A bright light in a dark world, showing others where Jesus Christ is through the way you live your daily life; a reflection of the light that is Jesus Christ.

~AN "ANGEL"~

A messenger proclaiming the coming of Christ to those too busy to notice it for themselves.

~A "SHEPHERD"~

They are busy tending their flocks, their families, too busy to notice the heavenly event happening. They await a personal messenger to call them to Jesus.

~A "SHEEP"~

Directionless, leaderless, busy grazing without a thought for the future, blind to the wonders of God around them.

~A "WISE MAN"~

Travel long distances in search of Jesus, and finding Him, place their most precious belongs as gifts before him.

~AN "INN-KEEPER"~

Our hearts are full, our lives too busy, we have no room for Him.

~A "HEROD"~

Living lavish lives we see Jesus as a threat to the comfortable lives we lead. We are scared of the challenges He places before us.

~A "MARY"~

We humbly allow Jesus to be born through us, obediently setting aside our own plans.

~A "JOSEPH"~

An active and willing supporter, happy to assist at the birth of Jesus.

~AN "OX"~

Willing to share our meager accommodation with Jesus, witnesses at His birth.

~A "DONKEY"~

Humbly willing to be used by those bringing about the birth of Jesus.

Whatever your role in welcoming Christ into this world, do it with a dedicated spirit! Let's put "ourselves" in the stable amidst the sheep, shepherds and lambs.

Be a part of Christmas...celebrate His birth!

Author Unknown

Do you know what would have happened if there had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men?

They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts.

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate and jealousy. Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it *one day at a time* out of these ingredients. Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness. Blend with one part prayer and one part meditation, and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of play and a cupful of good humor.

Pour all this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness and cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a Happy New Year.

Author unknown

The New Year lies before you,
Like a spotless tract of snow.
Be careful how you tread on it,
For every mark will show.

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