

WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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Warner Robins, GA 31093

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Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am

March 2010 Number 3



I am writing this article on Ash Wednesday evening. By the time you read this, we will be well into the season of Lent. Lent is the time of preparation for Christians to examine themselves and be better prepared to celebrate the wonder of Easter morning. How are you doing so far in whatever act of self-discipline you have chosen? Have you let it slide a little? Is it time to get it back on track?

At the end of March we begin Holy Week. March 28th will be Palm Sunday. On April 1st we will celebrate Maundy Thursday. Easter will be April 4th. I look forward to seeing you there.

This past week, the world's attention was brought to a young man from the country of Georgia who lost his life on the day the Winter Olympics opened. We watched as athletes from around the world stood as the Georgian athletes entered the opening ceremonies. We also are kept apprised as to the status of other Olympians who have been injured in competition, such as the women competing in the downhill skiing.

We may not be able to recall the names of which country they represent, but we express caring. We rejoice in the way the athletes set aside their competitiveness to embrace and support one another without any concern of politics. Yes, there are rivalries and harsh words exchanged but there is a greater sense of community than there is of division. It is a terrible shame that this happens only every other year in the winter and summer.

This is an example for all of us to follow. These athletes connect sometimes in spite of the home countries disagreements. They see each other not as foreign competitors but as fellow athletes, members of the same community.

So much needs to be done in the world and we seem to keep waiting for governments to figure it all out. We wait for world leaders to sit down and solve the problems. We expect elected officials to set aside their personal agendas and serve the greatest good. It is not up to them. Just as in the Olympic Village, we in the Global Village must step up and set the tone.

As Christians we are called to live in community and to love and serve that community whether we like each other or not. We are called to care about what happens to our neighbors and how what we do has an impact upon their lives. We are called to be good stewards of God's creation. We are challenged to love one another and not judge or we will be judged in the same matter.

We do not need the governments of the world to solve the issue of Global Climate Change. You and I as Christians need to be more deliberate in how we use and abuse the bounty of God's earth. We need to leave less of an imprint on creation and do a better job of using only that which we truly need and to recycle everything that can be recycled.

Why wait for the government to solve the health care crisis? In small ways we can work together to help those who have no insurance. In Warner Robins, the hospital offers a clinic for workers without healthcare. We can support it. We can volunteer to help meet the needs. We can encourage medical people we know to work to improve the system. The best way for the change to occur will be from the inside out.

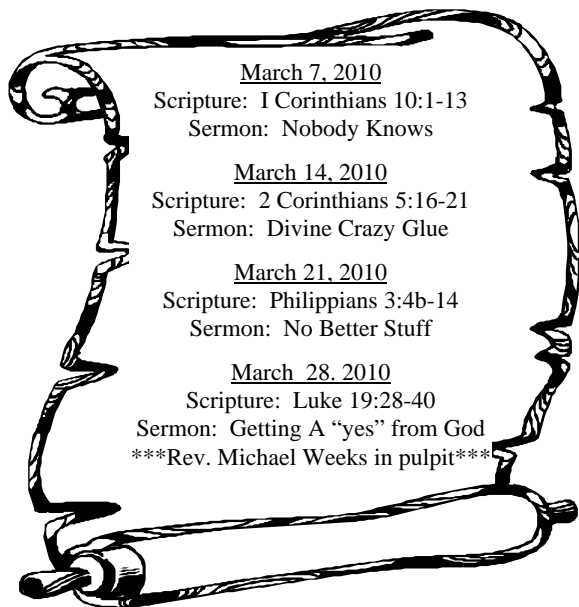
Homelessness, hunger, abuse, suicide, etc., etc. can be dealt with by people of compassion and dedication striving to make a difference in their own communities. The early church did not overcome the persecution of the Roman Empire by force of arms or resources; they

succeeded by acts of love for everyone regardless of their social status. They cared for everyone they could reach and thus set an example for others to follow, and they did. As Christians, our greatest weakness is when we believe ourselves to be in power. God is in charge, not us, not any government. God dares us to follow the example of his son and welcome the outcast and rejected; to heal the sick and give sight to the blind; to release those who are bound and enslaved; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Join the Way!

Shalom, *Darrell*

MARCH ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in March are: Elders – Scott Nolde & Tony Hicks and Deacons – Jerri Bosarge, Mike Hurlbert, Nicole Hicks and Barbara Hicks.



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

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

March 7	Juliet Nolde
March 14	Melissa & Angie
March 21	Donna Staub
March 28	Jo Smith

CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF breakfast was held on Feb. 6th at 8:00 a.m. There were ten people attending. Our next breakfast will be March 6th at 8:00 a.m.

EXTREME MAKE OVER: Church Edition

Mark your calendars for March 27th as we spend the morning sprucing up our church buildings and grounds in preparation for Easter. We will start with a nice breakfast cooked by David and Ann Von Almen and then get to the various jobs around the church and grounds. Lunch will also be provided. If you know of any task that needs to be done, please let us know. With everyone's help, we can get a lot accomplished. Contact David Von Almen with ideas of needed tasks at VAMktPub@aol.com or by phone at 213-5986.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Feb. 10th at 2:00 at Ole` Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Corey & Juanita Gunnin, Bob, Gladys, Janice & Diane Fentem, Winona Smith, Lois Crawford, Denny & Brenda McReynolds and Carl Shaw. We will meet again on March 10th at 2:00 at Ole` Times Country Buffet. Come on out and join the group.



CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

Large divided foam plates
Paper towels
Toilet Paper
Creamer
Hand soap refills

Thank you for your generous donations to the church pantry.

We need your help with preventing unintentional misdirecting of donations! Since our church is involved in several ongoing projects, please help us by labeling the bag or items you would like to donate!

Example:

**Church Pantry
Local Food Pantry
Safe House
Hearts to Heroes**

Who Loves You Baby!



We need your baby pictures!

for our first

Baby Picture Contest

at our March Fellowship Dinner
Sunday, March 21st

Pictures, age 5 or younger, should be no larger than 5x7. Place your pictures with names in sealed envelopes and bring them to church between now and Sunday, March 14th. Please give them to either Ann Von Almen or Beth Bickley. Then come to the March Fellowship Dinner and see if you can name the most babies. There will be a prize!



WOMEN'S CIRCLE CWF GRACE GROUP

The CWF Grace Group met at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 18th. Five ladies attended. Sharon Kay Duncan brought refreshments. Our program was given by Lois Crawford and titled Rebuilding Efforts in Bosnia. We want to thank everyone who came to eat at our Valentine dinner or who provided food. We appreciate all of you very much for supporting our group. We made \$200 which will be used in special outreach projects.

Our Spring Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 24th. Start saving those things you no longer need or want. You may bring your items to church after the Fellowship Dinner on April 18th through Wednesday April 21st.



CWF M&M GROUP

The M&M group met on Feb. 25th at 7:00. at El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant to finish planning for the annual soup fundraiser and other ideas for the group.

Calling All "Souper" Cooks!

The M&M Group needs your help! We need your pot of soup on March 7, 2010. We will have our annual soup cook off right after Darrell's weekly lecture (I mean sermon)! This will be a fundraiser for church improvements. Donations will be accepted by voting for the best pot of soup. Gentlemen, last year you let a woman win (Jannet Thompson/Chicken Noodle soup). So, Gentlemen, the challenge is on. WHO IS THE BEST SOUP MAKER AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – A Man or A Woman? Come join the fun. Gidget Hurlbert



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Blankets, Twin size

Bath towels

Snacks for kids (fruit snacks and juice boxes)

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

The thermostat is kept lowered in the Safe House & the children need extra blankets at night. There are thirteen children at this time.



Feed My Sheep

We gave approximately 36 pounds of food to the local food pantry in 2010. The Food pantry serves about 90 families in our area every week. Please remember to bring a few cans, jars or packages of non-perishable food to church at least once a month for those who really need our help during these bad economic times.

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	3 Choir Practice 7:00	4 Mitchell Thompson	5 Emily Staub Phil Bosarge	6 8:00 Men's Breakfast
7 Soup Cook- Off 4:00 Chi Rho/CYF Donna Staub	8 Board Mtg. 7:30 James Layfield	9 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00	10 2:00 Lunch Bunch Choir Practice 7:00 Doreen Campbell	11 Charlie Smith	12 Barbara Eades	13 Del Von Almen
14 4:00 Chi Rho/CYF	15	16 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	17 Choir Practice 7:00 Evelyn Carroll	18 CWF Grace 6:00 (covered dish meal) Vigrinia Hebenstreit	19 Men's Retreat	20 Men's Retreat
21 4:00 Chi Rho/CYF Photo Contest at the Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Men's Retreat ends	22	23 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 Msarsha Vandervort Charlie & Jo S.	24 Choir Practice 7:00 Debbie Davis	25 CWF M&M 7:00	26	27 8:00 Breakfast Church Clean Up Day afterwards
28 PALM SUNDAY 4:00 Chi Rho/CYF Feed My Sheep Sun. Mike Rogers	29 Melissa Hebenstreit Sharon-Kay Duncan	30	31			

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The Present

If one day when you wake up, you find on your bed a beautifully wrapped present with delicate bows, you would open it before even washing your face, curious about what is inside. Maybe what you find is something you do not like very much. Then you would put away the box wondering what to do with the present. But, if the next day you find another present, you would open it also and, if this time you find something that you like very much...a memory from someone that is far away...some beautiful clothing you saw in a window shop...the keys to a new car...a beautiful winter coat...or just a beautiful flower from somebody that remembered you.

This happens every day, but we do not realize it. Every day when we wake up, it is there, before us, a present sent to us by God...a whole day to use in the best possible way. Sometimes it comes with problems or issues that we do not seem to be able to solve. Sometimes it comes with sadness, deception, or even tears. But other times it comes full of surprises, happiness, success and achievements.

What is important is that every day we receive a present, wrapped especially for us while we sleep. It is called **THE NEXT DAY**. We are presented this box with colored bows, no matter what the day brings. That day when we wake up every morning is a **PRESENT**, the present that life gives us. It is not always what we wish for or what we hope for, but it is the best for us; what we need most, what we have to learn, or what we need to grow.

Open your **PRESENT** every day giving thanks first to the Creator that gave it to you, without thinking what is inside the box. If today you do not receive the present you wanted, wait for the next one, and appreciate what you received today. Tomorrow open your present with love and enthusiasm, because one day your dreams and the life plan for you will come inside the box, beautifully wrapped just for you

May you have a day full of blessings, in which you can feel the loving presence of your Creator, and may the present of every day bring you peace, spiritual growth, and enlightenment on all we still have to learn about every day, and the plan life has for us everyday.

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