

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

April 2010 Number 4



Why did the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile occur? Why did so many die? What is the cause of all the violence in the world? Why are people homeless, why are they hungry, why are they suffering from diseases? Why, Why, Why, Why!

There is no answer that will satisfy our desire to know the root causes. All that we can say is that these problems exist. So often we cry out to God and ask "why" and implied in that question is a demand to fix the problem. But the problems continue. Do not see this as a sign of God's abandonment of humanity. Do not see it as a sign that there is no God or that God is not capable of doing anything about anything. Rather, let us look at it from the other end of our usual lenses.

We turn to the Bible for wisdom about how to live our lives and deal with all that occurs. Evil enters the beauty of Creation from the choices of human beings. God gives us guidance to lead us back into lives of justice and righteousness over and over again. Find a good Concordance of all the words in the Bible and see how many times the word justice is used, count the number of times righteousness is used. "Seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God" (Micah) and "Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever flowing stream" (Amos) to remind you of a couple of times that the word justice is used. Look at the life of Jesus and his words. Especially read the words from Isaiah he read as he began his ministry regarding sight to the blind, food to the hungry, and release to those held captive and also the words in Matthew about the separation of the sheep and the goats. The sheep did the will of God and cared for the most rejected and downtrodden people

in the community and in doing so, cared for Jesus.

Why should we care about justice for strangers; because the Bible reminds us that once we were strangers. Why feed the hungry and care for the poor; because doing so demonstrates the love we have been shown in Jesus. Why risk our personal comfort zones for people who seek to do us ill; because we are challenged to do good to our enemies and to pray for them and not curse them. Our faith is NOT a faith concerned solely with achieving our eternal life in Heaven. God has already done the work. Jesus told us that we are to proclaim the acceptable year of God in the way we live and interact with all the other people who share this Creation with us.

Recently, talking heads in the media have pointed to Social Justice messages in the church as code words for anti-democratic desires. There may indeed be some people who use the words and concepts in the Bible for personal gain and power. It would not be the first time, and unfortunately, it will probably not be the last. However, as Christians, we are called to a life that seeks to heal the hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits of those all around us; a life that places God and the wisdom shared by Jesus to love ahead of any drive to divide God's children.

No one of us can bring change to the entire world. God does not expect us to change all of Creation. We are to love and serve the people we can reach. Live each day with the daring to weigh each choice for justice and righteousness, for love and compassion, for forgiveness and grace. Then you will hear Jesus say, "When you did it for one of them, you did it for me".

Shalom, *Darrell*

APRIL ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in April are: Elders: Denny & Brenda McReynolds and Deacons: Evelyn Carroll, Fran Rutherford, Juliet Nolde, and Chris Rogers.



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

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

April 4 Donna Staub
April 11 Mike Hurlbert
April 18 Jo Smith
April 25 Melissa & Angie



CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF breakfast was held on March 6th at 8:00 a.m. There were nine people attending. There will be no breakfast in April. Our next breakfast will be on May 14th at 8:00 a.m.



LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch met on March 10th at 2:00 at Ole` Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: David Von Almen, Brenda & Denny McReynolds and Nadine &

Curtis Scaggs. We really missed those who could not join us and hope you can be with us the next time we get together. We will meet again on April 14th at 2:00 at Ole` Times Country Buffet.



CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

Large divided foam plates
Paper towels Toilet Paper
Dessert Plates Dish Soap
Qt. ziplock bags 33 or 39 gal bags

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



CWF GRACE GROUP

The CWF Grace Group met at 6:00 p.m. on March 18th. Nine ladies attended a covered dish meal followed by our business meeting. Our program was given by Winona Smith and titled Looking for Peace in the Holy Land. 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.

The Gift of Easter

Easter is the gift of HOPE.
Easter is the gift of PEACE.
Easter is the gift of LOVE.
Let us rejoice in Him.



CWF M&M GROUP

Thanks to all who participated in the Soup Fundraiser. The M&M ladies collected \$180 for church improvements. A portion of the money will go towards a community service project for teachers that educate our youth. Our next project will be on May 1st. It is a brunch to honor community teachers. The M&M ladies would love to have your help with the project. Contact Gidget (718-4600) for more information.

Calling All Kids, Youth, Students....

The M&M ladies want to honor your favorite teacher! You and your teacher will come to church on May 1st for a brunch. Students, your homework is to write down the first and last name of your teacher, where he/she works, and grade level. The due date for this information needs to be given to Gidget Hurlbert no later than April 11th (the sooner the better), Parents, please help us gather this information so we can get invitations, gifts and breakfast for the guests. Also, a date will be set for students to come to the church to make a small gift for their teacher. More information will follow in April.

HELP WANTED! HELP WANTED!

Job Description: Working with our wonderful youth in a casual yet educational atmosphere.

Starting Date: To be determined in June – Sunday through Thursday. - One week only (No Friday or Saturday)!!

Benefits: Watching children discover God.

Bonus: You will learn something about children, God and yourself.

Salary: Countless God Sightings + Many Laughs and Smiles +Priceless.

If interested in Vacation Bible School, please contact Gidget Hurlbert (718-4600)
(You won't be disappointed.)

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Virginia Pollock Hebenstreit celebrated her 100th birthday on March 18, 2010. The day was marked by two celebrations. The first, held at Rosemont Court where she lives, was attended by the residents, family and friends. A special appearance by Mayor Chuck Shaheen was a highlight of the event. The evening event, held at Eagle Springs Club House, was celebrated with more family members and friends from the church and community. She was delighted to have family members from out-of-town join her for the day. These guests included two granddaughters with one of their husbands from Florida and three nieces, their husbands and one great niece from Illinois. You have the heartfelt congratulations from your friends at First Christian Church.



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Toilet paper
Pull-ups size 5-6
Pampers (all sizes)
Paper Towels
Cleaning Supplies

A NEW GRANDPA'S THOUGHTS

I realize that I am not the first to become a grandfather among all who will read this article. However, this is the first time for me.

Participating in the birth of a child and holding that child is an amazing experience and I will always treasure that moment. Touching that new life and watching it explore a new world reminds us of the wonder of life and how each of us is part of that great chain of life.

With a grandchild, an entirely different level of wonder begins. At the birth of your own child, there is the presence of responsibility to assure that this new life is cared for and nurtured. A parent is responsible for the future development and care for this new life. A grandparent may feel some of the same concerns, but the greater weight rests upon the parents. Grandparents get to play, entertain, and enjoy this new life without the pressure to parent.

I was blown away the first time I held Abigail. This life is the next generation of my family. The Vandervort family tree has a new branch. What fruit might this branch produce. As a father, I am thrilled that all my children have reached adulthood with responsibility and found people with whom they can share love and their futures. Now there is again a child in the family.

Having a granddaughter means I can go through the toy departments of stores, not to remember when or see how many of the "new" toys are the same ones with which my children played, but rather to seek new toys for Abigail. (As a grandfather I can contemplate buying the noisy toys that will stay in Memphis. Don't tell Thomas and Andrea).

The biggest surprise came when it was time to leave for home. I enjoy getting away, but after a time I grow anxious to get back home. This time the larger desire was to stay longer. I do not expect that to change. The one thing that grandparents know with absolute certainty is that new baby smell is infinitely better than new car smell.

Shalom, *Darrell*

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Mark & Donna Staub</i>	2 <i>Barbara Hicks Norbert & Sharon Kay Duncan</i>	3 No Men's Breakfast
4 EASTER SUNDAY Easter egg hunt during SS 4:00 ChiRho/CYF	5 Board Mtg. 7:30 <i>Nicole Crofutt</i>	6 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 <i>Don Lawhun</i>	7 Choir Practice 7:00	8	9	10 <i>Jo Smith</i>
11 4:00 Chi Rho/CYF	12	13 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00	14 2:00 Lunch Bunch Choir Practice 7:00	15 CWF Grace 7:00 <i>Keith & Glenda Ewert</i>	16 <i>Debra Scaggs</i>	17 <i>Stephanie Postell</i>
18 6:00 Fellowship Dinner 4:00 Chi Rho/CYF <i>Dawn McReynolds</i> Can bring yard sale items	19 Can bring yard sale items	20 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 <i>Glenda Ewert Ted & Laurie Cook</i>	21 Choir Practice 7:00 Last day to bring yard sale items	22 CWF M&M 7:00 <i>Cathrina Lawson</i>	23	24 CWF yard sale 8:00-2:00
25 4:00 Chi Rho/CYF "Feed My Sheep Sunday"	26	27 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	28 Choir Practice 7:00	29 <i>Juanita Von Almen</i>	30	

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Special Thoughts

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy OR I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money OR I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases more wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health OR I can rejoice that I am alive today.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up OR I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns OR I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends OR I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work OR I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school OR eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do house work OR I can feel honored because the Lord has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping. What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have! Have a GREAT DAY, unless you have other plans.

“This is the day the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it”!

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