

WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

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

July 2011 Number 7



With the end of the school year, a lot of the attention to bullying has diminished. While our attention has shifted, the problem has not ended. Bullying is a type of abuse we associate with school children picking on each other, calling names, ostracizing, and fighting. The recent attention was garnered when children and young people killed themselves rather than continue to suffer this abuse.

Bullying has been around for a very long time and almost all of us can tell stories of being a victim of bullying or witnessing bullying taking place. We also pretend that it is limited to school aged people. Because it has been with us, and because we tell ourselves that you outgrow it, we do very little about bullying that takes place around us all of the time.

This behavior is rooted in the idea that in order to be superior to others, I have to demonstrate that superiority in ways of power and force. Anyone who is different or at least different from me is therefore less than me and needs to be shown that they must fall into my framework of being, or at least acknowledge my superiority. As we get older, and as technology has increased the ability to communicate, bullying has grown more sophisticated and sometimes less obvious.

The playground bully can now text and tweet and use the internet to broaden the impact of his/her abuse. What might once have been limited to a single schoolyard is now available globally in minutes. This is very serious and destructive.

What kind of actions can we as a church take to begin to alter this bullying? Be aware of how we talk about other people with whom we disagree. Do we verbally diminish them and categorize them in ways that seem to lessen

their right to hold a different opinion or belief?" Do we listen to and support media practices that insult any who disagree? Much of what passes for news can give the appearance of bullying and teach children that not only is it acceptable, but also the proper way to deal with those who are outside our framework of normal. The attitude of hostility and attack that is so prevalent in our political society can lead people to believe that bullying is the way to win success in life. Be the best bully, the most powerful bully and you will win.

Jesus taught us to see each other as Children of God. He taught us to avoid passing judgment on the worth of others. He challenged us to love each other as we should love ourselves. If you weigh the number of times Jesus verbally condemned someone as opposed to lovingly guided someone, you will see the proportion we should follow. Those who received the most scathing words from Jesus were those who chose to condemn the behavior of people they were charged with guiding, without an effort to be understanding and treat them with justice and righteousness.

Help teach children to listen and strive to understand why someone might be different from them. Help them to understand that each child is special and important in their own ways. A parent with more than one child may at some point be asked, "Which child do you love more?" We often respond by saying that we love them all the same. This is not exactly accurate. We love each child for themselves and since they are each different, we must love them differently. The child going through the hardest time at that moment needs the greatest amount of love at that moment. Our love for our children is not a calm pool equally doled out, but rather a tap that flows with the amount of love needed for each child at the moment of their lives. We need to teach the children to

see that loving others does not diminish the love for family and friends.

We must also demonstrate with our own lives the proper way to show respect to other people. We often say that respect must be earned. This is true, up to a point. As each of us is a child of God, we must begin by offering each other that level of respect that we would show God. We are the visible Image of God in the world, so is everyone else. Therefore, we should begin our dealings with a basic level of respect for every person. From there we can offer greater or even lesser respect as it is merited. Also remember that you too, must begin at that same level when you meet new people. Do not expect to be granted greater respect than you demonstrate.

Finally, we need to remember that while bullying is an act of force, equal force does not defeat it; neither does greater force. Jesus defied the bullying of the Roman Empire, even to the point of his crucifixion. God defeated that bullying in the resurrection. The one who was called names, beaten, and killed became our source of hope and shalom.

Shalom, *Darrell*

JULY ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in July are: Elders: Charlie & Sara Hebenstreit and Deacons: Jessica Hebenstreit, Ethan Thompson, Kyle McReynolds, & Dawn McReynolds.

CWF GRACE

The CWF Grace Group met on June 16th at Sharon-Kay's home. Nine ladies were present. Our program was presented by Brenda McReynolds. The program, "Refueling our Soul", by Christy E. Dew, was most appropriate with the beginning of summer. The ladies who helped with our meal of pizza, salad and dessert were Billie Milliken, Brenda McReynolds and Sharon-Kay Duncan. On September 15th we will have a covered dish meal and our business meeting and program.

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Men's breakfast will be held after the church renovation is completed.

JULY NURSERY SCHEDULE

July 3	Mike Hurlbert
July 10	Juliet Nolde
July 17	Gidget Hurlbert
July 24	Mike Hurlbert
July 31	Juliet Nolde

JULY SCRIPTURE & SERMONS



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Dishwasher Detergent
Mattress covers, twin size
Cleaning Supplies
Paper Towels
Flashlights & batteries
Alarm Clocks
Toothbrushes

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

During the time of the fellowship hall renovation, please bring your Hearts to Heroes, Food Pantry items, and Safe House items to the Narthex. **Please label your bags** so they will be taken to the appropriate places. **Remember, even though it is summer these organizations still have needs each month.**

Thank you for your help in supporting these organizations.

July 2011

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 Juliet Nolde	2
3 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Evelyn Hawkins	4	5 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	6	7	8 Jerri Bosarge	9 Keith Ewert Tony Hicks
10	11 Winona Smith	12 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel	13 2:00 Lunch Bunch Ole' Times Buffet <i>Andrea McCleese</i>	14 Lonnie & Margaret Hicks	15 Carl Shaw	16 John Stokes
17	18	19 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 Fran Rutherford Laurie Cook	20 JT Stokes	21	22	23
24 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	25 Wayne Scaggs	26 8:00 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	27	28	29 Dalton & Dakota Crofutt	30 Corey Gunnin
31 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday						

Stress Analogy

A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?'... She fooled them all..."How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up tomorrow.

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