

# WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

Music Director

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

100 North Houston Road

Warner Robins, GA 31093

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Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am

December, 2011 Number 12



How much do you spend on Christmas each year? Are you afraid to total it up? Does it take most of the next year to pay for it all? Is this a Christian Christmas or a commercial driven Christmas? Now don't take this wrong, I think that giving special gifts to loved ones is a wonderful expression of our love, just as we received that special gift from God on Christmas Day. But what if we did something different.

Remember those special homemade gifts that you gave your parents when you were in school, or the gifts that your children gave you? Most parents still have those plaster of Paris hand prints, construction paper cards, clay sculptures, and the like. When we see these, our hearts go back to the faces of those tender children watching us for our reactions to the gift they worked so hard to make. We remember the glow of their smile when we gushed with gratitude. We didn't gush because we held the creation of the next great artist, sculptor, or poet, but rather because we knew the love that was invested in those simple items. That love is why we still have these gifts.

Whether you create your own gift or purchase something, take the time to find a gift that expresses the love you hold for that person. Make sure that when it is opened, that the recipient knows that they are loved and that this is an expression of your love.

It may take some re-education for some of us. We have spent so much of our lives immersed in the commercials that gifts are measured by their financial value rather than by the loving intent of the givers. The worth of the gift is not in how much was spent, but rather by how much love was invested. The grandparents and the aunts and uncles who gave us gifts of

clothing (I know that as children it really wasn't what we wanted or hoped for) may have truly and lovingly selected these items for our real needs, not our commercially inspired wants.

Maybe give a gift of taking over a chore around the house that someone else has, for a day, for a week, for a month. Make a recording of a song or a book that the person loves, not by some famous reader or singer, but by you! Compile a slide show of photos on DVD of family and memories spanning a life. Do something to pamper the person you love. It does not have to be expensive. It only has to be genuine and loving.

May your Christmas be a blessing and the New Year be rich in the presence of God.

Shalom, *Darrell*

## Service in the Region

We are all aware of the officers of the congregation. Their names appear in the bulletin and the newsletter from time to time. However, we are often unaware of the members of our church who serve the greater church in GA. Darrell Vandervort has been the chair of the Regional Commission on Ministry for the past three years. Brenda McReynolds serves on the GA Disciples Women Commission as secretary. At the Regional Assembly in November, Juliet Nolde was elected and installed as a member of the Regional Communications Commission. In January, Jessica Hebenstreit will complete her service as our representative to the Youth Activity Council (YAC). Ethan Thompson will follow her as our YAC representative and be installed at the Youth-a-Palooza event in January.

We serve our congregation, but we are also in covenant with the Regional and General church of the Disciples of Christ. See how we are serving the church in the world. Want to help?

### **Pastor's Class**

Starting in January, after the Youth-a-Palooza event, January 6-8, a Pastor's Class will be forming. This class will be for anyone interested in considering baptism. We will discuss what it means to be part of the church and continuing our faith journeys throughout our lives. If you are interested, please let Darrell know during the next month. We will meet on Sunday afternoons for a period of six weeks. At the conclusion of the class, anyone who wishes, in discussion with family members, can set a date for baptism.

### **Christmas Special Day Offering**

The Christmas Special Day Offering will be taken on the two Sundays before Christmas and Christmas Sunday. This offering goes for the ministries of the Christian Church in GA. It helps support Camp Christian and the summer camping program. It provides leadership for the YAC. It assists congregations going through transitions, from minister searches to guidance for congregational renewal. The regional church is the connective tissue of the Disciples in GA. Last year we missed collecting \$500 by \$8.00. This year, let's top that \$500. We can do great things when we come together. We can do even more when we come together with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia.

### **CCF**

CCF is going to have a meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> and on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The children will meet at the church. There will be more information in the future about what we will be doing. We hope to continue this in the coming year.  
Mary Jane Rogers

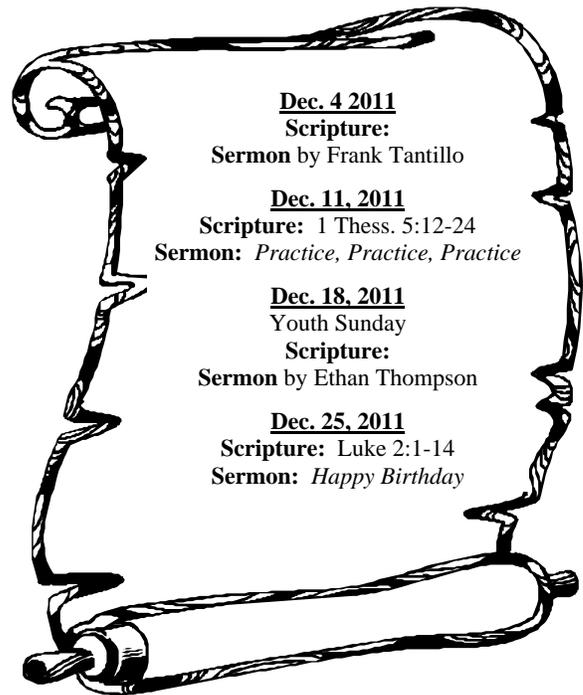
### **DECEMBER ELDERS & DEACONS**

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in December are: Elders – Scott Nolde and Tony Hicks; Deacons – Ted Cook, Mike Hurlbert, Nicole Hicks, and Barbara Hicks.

### **DEC. NURSERY SCHEDULE**

December 4	Juliet Nolde
December 11	Gidget Hurlbert
December 18	Jessica & Angie
December 25	Juliet Nolde

### **DEC. SERMONS & SCRIPTURE**



**Dec. 4 2011**

**Scripture:**  
**Sermon by Frank Tantillo**

**Dec. 11, 2011**

**Scripture:** 1 Thess. 5:12-24  
**Sermon:** *Practice, Practice, Practice*

**Dec. 18, 2011**

Youth Sunday  
**Scripture:**  
**Sermon by Ethan Thompson**

**Dec. 25, 2011**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-14  
**Sermon:** *Happy Birthday*

### **CMF BREAKFAST**

The CMF Breakfast was held in our new Fellowship Hall on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were 16 people present for the meal. The next breakfast will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **CWF GRACE GROUP**

We met on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Ten ladies attended. After our business meeting, Brenda gave our study/worship on the Beatitudes. The name of this lesson was "Greatly Honored are the Mourners". Our next meeting will be on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at Sharon-Kay's home. All ladies in the church are welcome to join us.

We had another successful bazaar/yard & bake sale this year. We made \$753.86. We greatly appreciate your support, however you were able to participate this year. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and the money is used to help fund the commitments our group makes every month.

Cherished Children \$50.00  
 Christian Church In GA \$60.00  
 Church Roof Fund (2010) \$10.00

The above are budgeted items. We also support Women's Ministries with over and above giving of \$91.00 each month. There are also the service projects that you, the congregation, help support: pillowcases, items for the Safe House, the health kits for Haiti and others. We, again, thank you for your generosity as we continue to reach out to help those in need in our community and beyond.

### LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch group met at Ole Times Buffet on Wednesday, Nov. 9th. It was a small group again. Nadine & Curtis Scaggs, Juanita Gunnin and Winona Smith were the only ones to enjoy the food and fellowship. Hopefully, there will be more attending at the next meeting. The meeting place has been changed. We will begin meeting at the Golden Corral on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We hope more will join us.

### SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Laundry Detergent  
 Fabric Softener  
 Dishwasher Detergent  
 Cleaning Supplies  
 Bathroom Tissue  
 Paper Towels

### CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

Paper Towels  
 Toilet Tissue  
 Large Divided foam plates  
 Dessert plates  
 Creamer  
 Sugar  
 Zip Lock bags (Gallon size)  
 Dish Soap  
 Hand Soap  
 All purpose spray cleaner  
 13 Gallon kitchen bags  
 39 Gallon trash bags

### PAJAMAS WITH A PURPOSE

When a mother and her children go to the Safe House, they sometimes leave their home with

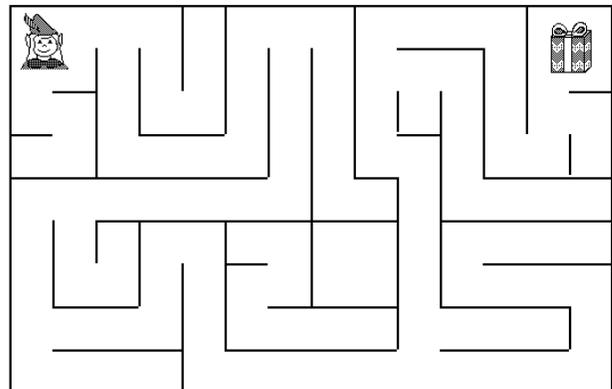
no pajamas. The Salvation Army Safe House would like our support in solving this problem by donating pajamas for the residents. They will accept new and gently used pajamas for women, girls and boys (size 2X to newborn size). Pajamas for all seasons are welcome. The pajamas will be used for the current and future shelter residents. There is a pajama container in the Narthex. Please bring your donations to church by December 11<sup>th</sup>. They will then be taken to the drop-off point. In January we will resume the pajama drive as an on-going outreach project. Thank you for your help.

### A HEART TO HEROES THANK YOU NOTE FROM THE TROOPS

"Dear Myra,

I cannot express how thankful I am for the care packages my Marines and I received today. It's good knowing that people care still; a little piece of home brings the joy in all of us. We now have enough supplies to last us for a long while. I just laid the packages out and told my Marines to dig in. It makes it a lot easier getting hygiene gear and other supplies in the mail because it's hard to find time to go to the PX and buy the things we need when we are working 80+ hours a week. Not to mention it's almost a two mile walk. Once again thank you so much.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Cpl Bandy  
 USMC  
 Semper Fidelis "Always Faithful"



Elf is looking for the lost gift

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# December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 <i>Pam Palmer</i>
4 <b>Chi Rho/CYF</b> <b>4:00</b> <i>Bob &amp; Gladys Fentem</i>	5 <b>Board Meeting</b> <b>7:30</b>	6 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>Cracker Barrel</b> <b>Bible Study 7:00</b>	7 <i>Gavin Edmondson</i>	8 <i>James Hicks</i>	9 <i>Mary Smith</i>	10 <b>8:00</b> <b>CMF Breakfast</b>
11 <b>Chi Rho/CYF</b> <b>4:00</b>	12	13 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>Cracker Barrel</b> <b>Bible Study 7:00</b>	14 <b>2:00</b> <b>Lunch Bunch</b> <b>Golden Corral</b> <i>William Griffith</i>	15 <b>CWF Grace</b> <b>6:00 P.M. at</b> <b>Sharon-Kay's</b> <i>Margaret Hicks</i>	16	17 <i>Ted Cook</i>
18 <i>Matt Thompson</i> <i>Oliva Gowin</i> <b>Fellowship Dinner</b>	19	20 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>Cracker Barrel</b> <b>Bible Study 7:00</b>	21	22	23 <i>Kyle McReynolds</i>	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Service 7:00</b>
	26	27 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>Cracker Barrel</b> <b>Bible Study 7:00</b>	28	29	30	31 <i>Haley Crofutt</i> <i>Austin Hurlbert</i> <i>Hunter Hicks</i>

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## **Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus**

- Santa lives at the North Pole... JESUS is everywhere.
- Santa rides in a sleigh...JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.
- Santa comes but once a year...JESUS is an ever present help.
- Santa fills your stockings with goodies...JESUS supplies all your needs.
- Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.
- You have to wait in line to see Santa...JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
- Santa lets you sit on his lap...JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
- Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.
- Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...JESUS has a heart full of love.
- All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...JESUS offers health, help and hope.
- Santa says "You better not cry"...JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care about you."
- Santa's little helpers make toys...JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
- Santa may make you chuckle but...JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
- While Santa puts gifts under your tree...JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...the cross.

**We need to put CHRIST back in Christmas because Jesus is still the reason for the season.**

**HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

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