

WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

100 North Houston Road

Warner Robins, GA 31093

(478) 923-1536

pastor@fcc-wr.org

www.fcc-wr.org

Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am

March 2015 Number 2



On February 6-9, 2015, eight young people and three adults went to Epworth-By-The-Sea on St. Simons Island for the 2015 Youth Assembly, also known as the Youth-A-Palooza. We shared in a great time of study on the topic of "Reflect, Refresh, and Rejoice." Dakota, Dalton, and Haley Crofutt, Levi and Sarah Cook, Laython Willis, Carter Nolde, and Tyler Hurlbert attended along with Jessica Hebenstreit, John Glover, and Darrell Vandervort. The banner from the event will hang in the sanctuary until it is replaced by the banner for 2016. Ask the young people about the event. The Youth Assembly is open to all middle and high school aged young people. Adults are welcome to participate as well.

We are into Lent as we begin March. As Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days of temptation, we are challenged to wander through these 40 days to examine the temptations in our own lives,

One of the biggest temptations we face in our society is the fabrication of self-sufficiency. We are to present an image of the hearty American who is capable of pulling himself or herself up by our own bootstraps. It is not possible to lift ourselves off the ground, or if we attempt this trick we will find a wonderful view of the sky as we topple backwards.

God created us to share our strengths with others and to allow others to provide the strengths that we lack. That is what living in true community is all about. We all advance together through cooperation, not just as a church, not just as Christians, but as the Creation of God. How often do you seek help without feeling as though you are a failure?

The only time we truly fail is when we fail to

seek help, support, and/or guidance in our endeavors.

Another temptation before us is the fear of loving others. As Christians we are challenged to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbor also. It is loving our neighbor that gets tricky. We permit fear to help us choose our neighbors. There are scary people in the world who do terrible things to others. I do not attempt to gloss over this fact. But Christianity only succeeded when it lovingly kept on serving and loving all people even when it cost Christians their lives. Unlike what we see in modern martyrs, early Christian martyrs did not take the lives of others to show their devotion to God. Rather they risked their lives to love their enemies and to boldly pray for those who sought to do them harm. Last month, we heard the story of Coptic Christians being executed in Libya. These Christians are seen as true martyrs because they refused to deny their faith even if it meant their death. Were they afraid, undoubtedly? Did the fear win? I don't think so.

The only way our faith really overcame opposition was by the willingness to respond to violence with love and caring behavior. Even the early critics of our faith were amazed at the expression of love early Christians showed others. What might we accomplish if we behaved in the same way today?

The last temptation I want to lift up in this article is the temptation of busyness. We live in a society that sees rest as wasting time. We need to "*efficiently*" use our time. We have to be "*productive*" with our time. Neither of these highlighted words are bad in and of themselves, however, they can be carried to ridiculous extremes. We all need time to rest and reflect, time to be renewed and refreshed. God insists

that we take Sabbath seriously; a full day of rejoicing in not worrying about productivity and efficiency. Compared to the rest of the world, we accept overwhelming demands on our time to the sacrifice of family time, re-creation time, or relaxation time. When was the last time you returned from vacation and wished for some extra time to recover from vacation?

Love yourself so that you can love your neighbor and God. Take the necessary time to truly worship and to play so that when you work it will be productive and efficient but not at the expense of yourself and others. If you cannot recall the reasons you do what you do, then you may have lost the sense of purpose, the sense of vocation. A job is more than a way to support yourself and your family. You need to rediscover how it serves others, how it benefits others, how you add meaning to your neighbors in this task. You also need to be able to let it go. Your job is not who you are; it is only something you do. You are the image of God, a brother or sister of Jesus, a gift to your community from God. Rediscover rest and purpose this Lent.

By the end of the month we will be preparing for the greatest gift of love ever offered. Prepare yourself and be blessed.

Shalom, Darrell

MARCH SERMONS & SCRIPTURE



MARCH ELDERS & DEACONS

Listed below are the Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in March: Elders are Charlie Hebenstreit and Brenda McReynolds. The Deacons are Rita Youngblood, Judy Barnickel, Dakota Crofutt and Haley Crofutt.

DISCIPLE WOMEN GRACE

The Grace Group met Thursday, February 19th at the church with 13 women present. Our program "Walking Through Deep Valleys, But Not Alone" was presented by Judy Barnickel and Jo Smith. Our next meeting on March 19th will include a covered dish meal beginning at 6:00 p.m.

We still have some cookbooks for sale. See Jeannetta, Sharon-Kay or Brenda to purchase one or more.

Plans are ongoing for the playground project and our local spring retreat. DW Spring Conference will be April 25th at Eastman Christian Church.

Our Spring Yard Sale will be April 11th from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. We can accept items on Sunday, April 5th (Easter) or the Monday thru Wednesday – the 6th through 8th from 9:30 a.m. till noon.

LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on February 11th. Those attending were Curtis and Nadine Scaggs, Brenda and Denny McReynolds and Carl Shaw. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Their next get together will be held at the Golden Corral on March 11th at 1:00 p.m. Come join us!

A NOTE FROM FORMER MEMBERS

Dear Darrell, This is from OLD friends of First Christian Church in Warner Robins. Ron Allton was a minister there for a few years in late 80's and early 90's. We have enjoyed receiving the newsletter from your church, and would like to continue, so we can keep up with a few friends we still have there. We have moved to a retirement community in Amarillo, Texas...our

old growing up home town. We are both still in good health at age 80, and have re-joined the church Ron was baptized in so long ago—First Christian Church-Amarillo. We have fond memories of our church in Warner Robins, and it's nice to read your newsletter. Our address is:

Ron and Faye Nell Allton
Clairmont Community
4707 Bell Street #324
Amarillo, TX 79109

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Large trash bags
13 gallon kitchen garbage bags
Divided oblong foam plates
Paper towels
Bathroom tissue
Kleenex
Dish Soap
Spray kitchen cleaners

SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Cleaning Supplies
Dish Detergent
Laundry Detergent
Fabric Softener
Paper Towels
Kleenex
Bathroom Tissue
Furniture Spray

“YOU ARE MINE”

While praying one day a woman asked, “Who are you, God? He answered, “I AM”. “But, who is I Am?” she asked. He replied, “I Am Love. I Am Peace. I Am Grace. I Am Joy. I Am Strength. I Am Safety. I Am Power. I Am The Creator. I Am The Comforter. I Am The Beginning and The End. I Am The Way, Truth, and The Light.”

With tears in her eyes she looked toward Heaven and said, “Now I understand. But, who am I?” God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered. “You Are Mine.”

BIBLE VERSES FOR TOUGH TIMES

Worried? Psalms 23:46; Matthew 6
Discouraged? Psalms 37; James 5:7-11
Frustrated? Psalms 90; Hebrews 12
Tired? Isaiah 40; Matthew 11:28-30
Bereaved? John 16:11-33
Too busy? Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Lonely or fearful? Psalm 91
Feel rejected? Colossians 1; 1 Peter 1
Sick or in pain? Psalms 6; Isaiah 40
Depressed? Psalms 34:71; Isaiah 40
Jealous? Psalms 49; James 3
Sleepless nights? Psalms 4:56;130
Family problems? Ephesians 6:1-10
Done something wrong? Psalms 51
Need courage & strength? Joshua 1:5-9
Facing a crisis? Job 28:12-28
Does God seem far away? Psalms 46
In doubt? Jeremiah 29:11-13
Money problems? Psalm 37
Bitter & critical? 1 Corinthians 13
Need peace? Matthew 11:25-30
Need assurance? Romans 8:1-30
Discouraged? Psalm 126
Don't understand what God is doing? Isaiah 55:8-9
Faith needs encouraging? Hebrews 11
Losing Hope? 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
Alone & scared? Psalm 23
Hard times? Psalm 9:9



Page left blank intentionally.

WHAT TO GIVE UP FOR LENT *(Conscious Life News)*

- Give up complaining Focus on Gratitude
- Give up pessimism Become an Optimist
- Give up worry..... Trust Divine Providence
- Give up bitterness..... Turn to Forgiveness
- Give up hatred Return Good for evil
- Give up negativism Be Positive
- Give up anger Be more Patient
- Give up pettiness..... Become Mature
- Give up gloom Enjoy the Beauty all around you
- Give up jealousy Pray for Trust
- Give up gossiping Control your Tongue
- Give up sin..... Turn to Virtue
- Give up giving up..... Hang in there!

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

**100 North Houston Road
Warner Robins, GA 31093**