

# WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

Shirley Thompson, Pianist

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

Dec. 2015 Number 12



Can a red cup represent Christmas? I fully believe that it can, especially if it is a red chalice bearing the cross of St. Andrew. Our chalice reminds us of the centrality of communion in our lives and worship, and the cross of St. Andrew reminds us of the Scottish heritage of our founders. The celebration of the birth of Christ is not about snowflakes, or what we call a decorated tree, but rather the acknowledgement of our responsibility to care for the infant Jesus we see in every person we meet.

It is not about spending a lot of money buying things that we don't need and may not even want. It is about caring for those who are lost, wandering the world, seeking for shelter and loving grace. Christmas tells the story of a family seeking shelter so that a birth may occur. The best that could be provided was the shelter of a stable or small barn, the feed trough as a bed for an infant. We erect our Nativity Scenes in our homes and churches and on our lawns. We look with glistening eyes upon live Nativity Scenes put on in our communities.

In contrast, we fail to see the homeless people sleeping on the street. Some of these homeless have served their nation in the military and have been cast aside due to the stress they encountered during that service. Some are people from war torn areas seeking safety; some are fleeing to a place of hope for a better life. We love to look at the Nativity scene. We don't want to notice these others seeking for a bit of comfort and shelter.

I am aware of the concern and fear, especially regarding the refugees from Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East. There are always those who will seek the easiest path to what they perceive as power and control.

There may be some who are not good people. But if we never meet them, how can we tell? If we don't care for them, how can we convert them from enemies into friends? Jesus taught through his actions to love those that most push aside, so we should care for those who are despised in order to heal those that most won't even acknowledge.

Celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior this month. Celebrate less with arguments about cups and names and more with love and grace; the same love and grace that the babe whose birth we celebrate showed us when we were of no account. Love your God with all your strength, all mind and with all your spirit, and love your neighbor as yourself. May you have a blessed Christmas and may you be a blessing this Christmas to someone in your community.

Shalom, *Darrell*

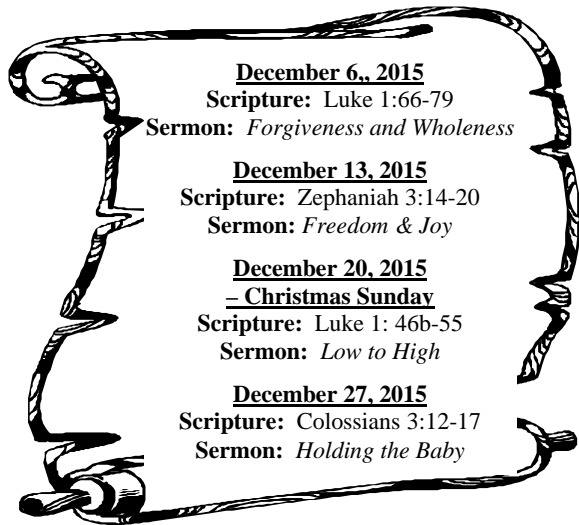
## DECEMBER ELDERS & DEACONS

Listed below are those serving in December are Elders: Charlie Hebenstreit & Brenda McReynolds and Deacons: Haley Crofutt, Dakota Crofutt, Rita Youngblood and Judy Barnickel.

## DW GRACE GROUP

The Grace Group met on November 19th. Seven ladies attended. The program was given by Brenda, "A Better Understanding of our Spiritual Journey". The refreshments were provided by Sharon-Kay. We made \$1,020.55 on our yard sale, bake sale & bazaar. Our next meeting, our Christmas Party, will be at Rita Youngblood's home on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. We will carpool from the church about 6:30pm. We plan to give stuffed Christmas stockings to the kids at the Safe House.

## DECEMBER SERMONS & SCRIPTURE



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

During November the church has been involved in its traditional collection of non-perishable food items for the local food pantry needs for Thanksgiving. During December there are several outreach opportunities for the members of our congregation to share in. We will continue to collect non-perishable food items during December. On December 5th we will serve hot chocolate and cookies to those setting up and attending the Christmas parade. We plan to meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. the morning of the parade for those who wish to help and enjoy the fellowship. Also, monetary gifts for this Christmas Parade ministry would be appreciated. In addition, we will be collecting items for Miller Elementary School. There is a special need for clothing items for one of the students who is homeless – shirt size Adult XL, pants 36Wx30L, and shoes size 9 ½. They have also requested children's clothing sizes 5T and up for some of the smaller children who have "accidents" and need a change of clothing. Many students are also in need of jackets, hoodies or coats. Finally, school supplies, tissues, paper towels, etc. purchased at the beginning of the school year have been depleted by this time and would be welcomed. All these items can be placed in the "gift boxes" in the sanctuary. We also encourage members to consider giving to the Christmas Special Day offering and/or to the Heifer International program. Finally, we plan to go Christmas caroling in the neighborhood around the church after the December Fellowship Dinner.

Our "followers" group, which meets each week during the Sunday School time, has been preparing Christmas cards for our Military "Heroes" during the month of November. This is an intergenerational group that meets each week and seeks to spend an hour doing some kind of outreach ministry together. You are invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and bring your ideas for ministry.

## The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch met on Nov. 11th at Golden Corral. Those attending were Darrell Vandervort, Curtis & Nadine Scaggs and Carl Shaw. The usual attendees are missed & it is hoped they will start attending again.

## OUR THANKSGIVING DINNER

We had 39 church family members in attendance for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time and the food was great as usual. A special thank you to Darrell for preparing the delicious turkey and to John and Mary Ann for the wonderful ham. This is what Church Family is all about; sitting down with one another for a meal and fellowship. The caring and concerns we share should make all of us aware of how important the Church Family is to us all.

Our next family gathering at the table will be on December 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. This will be our Christmas Dinner together & we would like for everyone to bring their favorite soup. The weather should be just about right or a night of hot soup. Come out and share the Love with your church family.

## KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Large trash bags	Coffee
8 oz. foam coffee cups	Kleenex
16 oz. plastic glasses	Dish Soap
Spray kitchen cleaners	
Divided oblong foam plates	

## SAFE HOUSE SUPPLIES

Cleaning Supplies	
Laundry Detergent	Fabric Softener
Bathroom Tissue	Kleenex
Glass cleaner	Furniture Polish
Large trash bags	Toddler Pull Ups

# December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	2	3 <i>Pam Palmer</i>	4 <i>Bob &amp; Gladys Fentem</i>	5 <b>Christmas Parade</b> 8:00 a.m. Serving hot chocolate & cookies
6 "Followers" group meet 9:30 a.m.  Cab. meeting after church	7 <b>Board Meeting</b> 7:00  <i>Gavin Edmundson</i>	8 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	9 <b>Lunch Bunch</b> Golden Corral 1:00	10 <b>Radio Club</b> Meeting 7:00	11	12
13 "Followers" group meet 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:00 p.m.	14  <i>William Griffith</i>	15 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	16	17 <b>DW Grace Group</b> <b>Christmas Party</b> at Rita's <i>Bariatric Mtg 7 pm</i> <i>Ted Cook</i>	18  <i>Olivia Gowin</i>	19
20 "Followers" group meet 9:30 a.m.	21	22 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 The Model Club	23  <i>Kyle McReynolds Jr.</i>	24	25	26
27 <b>Elder's Meeting</b> 9:30 a.m.	28	29 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	30	31  <i>Austin Hurlbert Haley Crofutt Hunter Hicks</i>		

# Random Acts of Christmas Kindness 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Give a compliment to a friend.	2 Tape change to a vending machine.	3 Make a card for a soldier.	4 Take coffee to your teacher.	5 Pick up litter.
6 Send a paper hug to someone you love.	7 Tell silly jokes to make someone laugh.	8 Give someone a hug coupon.	9 Donate a book to the library or hospital.	10 Leave a happy note for someone to find.	11 Do yard work for a neighbor.	12 Donate toys to your favorite charity.
13 Candy cane bomb a parking lot.	14 Call a faraway friend or relative to say hello.	15 Make a thank you for your librarian.	16 Do a chore for someone in your family.	17 Donate food to your local food pantry.	18 Leave a popcorn surprise in a DVD rental machine.	19 Smile at everyone you see today.
20 Take supplies to the animal shelter.	21 Pay for a stranger's coffee.	22 Give treats to the mail carrier.	23 Feed the birds.	24 Take cookies to the fire station.	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CoffeeCupsandCrayons.com

## First Christian Church

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