

WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

Shirley Thompson, Pianist

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am

July 2016 Number 7



By the time you read this article, the subjects in the article will be part of history. During this past week and half, we have heard of a young woman being raped by another student and how his punishment was reduced to prevent further harm to him, and the events in Orlando and the violence committed by someone who was in need of help but turned to the example of people who hate and kill. I am not going to complain about guns. I will call us to be responsible in our actions.

I read an article that my cousin, Mike Vandervort, posted from another HR person that touched me deeply. The author called us to be accountable to the people around us. The young woman was violated once in an alley, but then violated again at the trial when they dug into her history to see if she was "that kind of girl". The court was concerned about the damage to the rapist.

The shootings in Orlando have become the fodder of politicians and talking heads while little is done to find ways to reduce the opportunities for people who shouldn't have access to legal weapons continues. No words will restore the hearts and spirits of those who suffered the loss of loves ones, nor heal the scars of those who have survived. One person, for reasons we may never understand, decided to make a statement with violence. We are being left to jump to the conclusion that it was motivated by extreme religious views. Was it that or an easy handle to grab to explain what seems mindless?

How do we as Christians react to all of this? Some voices encourage young women to dress more reservedly since young men (and older men) can't behave properly. Some voices suggest that we all carry weapons so as to prevent violence with tools of violence.

The prophets often speak of doing kindness, seeking justice, and walking humbly with our God. Maybe if we removed this concept from a verbal event and made it the determining drive for all of our actions, we might come closer to the prophet's intent. Trying to place blame for our actions upon others never worked when we were children. Why do we accept it so easily as adults? If we thought about our actions in relation to kindness, justice and God, would you or I make different choices?

This is personal responsibility. It cannot be forced, but if enough people start being responsible in this way, it might influence others. Rapes will still occur, but maybe we will recognize the victims as the ones needing support and compassion, and encourage justice toward those who commit the crimes. But along with justice must come the hope for redemption. Justice is never about getting revenge.

Historically, the early church responded to violence by not resisting it. Christians willingly refused to face violence with violence in the early church. They walked into the arena to face death in the knowledge that they were God's, even in death. Doing kindness, seeking justice,

and walking humbly with God might make us rethink how we deal with gun violence, maybe even how and why we feel the need to possess weapons. Fear of what might occur can motivate us to seek security systems and weapons for protection. Yet, we know that people with excellent, expensive security systems become victims. Those who have weapons have had those weapons turned against them as well. In truth, the only guaranteed security that exists is the security of God's Love and Grace. It cannot prevent incidents like Orlando, but neither will more weapons. What it can do is give peace to us as we acknowledge that we cannot be separated from God.

This is not easily done. It takes a lifetime just to get started. Maybe that is why we are called to be disciples and students. We always need to learn how to be Christ-like as the conditions of the world challenge our resolve to love God and to love each other. Disciples who admit that we do not possess the answer to the questions of "WHY" these things happen learn that the only appropriate answer is to stand with those who are hurt, those who have been damaged, those who grieve and those who need. Are you called to be a Disciple?

Shalom, *Darrell*

DW GRACE GROUP

The DW Grace Group met on June 16th. Those present were: Rita Youngblood, Billie Milliken, Jeannetta Stokes, Brenda McReynolds, Dawn McReynolds, Angela Crawford, Mary Jane Rogers, Jo Smith & Sharon-Kay Duncan. We shared our joys and concerns, enjoyed a meal together and installed the next year's slate of officers:

President – Jeannetta Stokes
 Vice President – Judy Barnickel
 Secretary – Dawn McReynolds,
 Treasurer – Brenda McReynolds
 Worship – Sharon-Kay Duncan

JULY ELDERS & DEACONS

Listed below are those serving in July:

Elders: David Von Almen &
Ann Von Almen

Deacons: Mike Hurlbert,
Gidget Hurlbert,
Savanna Gowin &
Wayne Scaggs.

JULY SERMONS & SCRIPTURE



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

DWF Grace Group is partnering with women who own their own business to provide a fun Vendors fair. These talented women will be sharing their unique products. Here is a list of a few: Thirty One, Premiere Jewelry, Pampered Chef, 02, Mary Kay, Avon, Scentsy, Tupperware, It works, Essential oil and more.

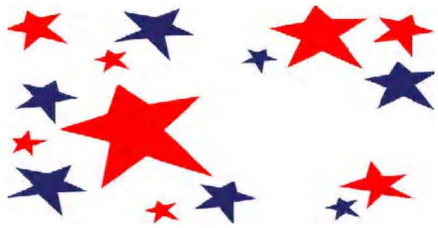
Come join us on July 16th from 9:00-3:00 in the Fellowship Hall for Christmas in July. Shop now while there is lots of summer sales and register to win free products and prizes. You will be glad you did!

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

39 gal garbage bags 13 gal trash bags
 Small dessert plates Kleenex
 16 oz. plastic glasses Dish Soap
 Spray kitchen cleaner Napkins
 Divided oblong foam plates

July 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



Happy Birthday America!

						1 <i>Juliet Nolde</i>	2
3 <i>Evelyn Hawkins</i>		5 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Cracker Barrel	6	7	8 <i>Jerri Bosarge</i>	9 <i>Tony Hicks</i>	
10	11 <i>Winona Smith</i>	12 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	13 <i>Andrea McCleese</i>	14 Radio Club Meeting 7:00 <i>Rita Youngblood</i>	15 <i>Carl Shaw</i>	16 <i>John Stokes</i>	
17	18 <i>Rev. Eddie & Sheryl Armstrong</i>	19 <i>Fran Rutherford</i> <i>Laurie Cook</i> <i>Olen Bell</i> Cracker Barrel 8:00 Bible Study 7:00	20 <i>JT Stokes</i>	21	22	23	
24 <i>Laython Willis</i>	25 <i>Wayne Scaggs</i>	26 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	27 Prayer Shaw Group 7:00	28 Bariatric Group Mtg. 7:00	29 <i>Dakota Crofutt</i> <i>Dalton Crofutt</i>	30 <i>Corey Gunnin</i>	

May God Bless the United States of America!



THE GIFT

A young man was getting ready to graduate from school. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

As graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son & told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed the young man opened the box & found a lovely, leather-bound Bible. Angrily, he raised his voice at his father & said "With all your money, you give me a Bible?" and he stormed out of the house, leaving the holy book.

Many years passed & the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home & a wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away and had willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately & take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness & regret filled his heart. He began to search his father's important papers & saw the still new Bible just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible & began to turn the pages. As he read those words, a car key dropped from an envelope taped behind the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words... **PAID IN FULL.**

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected.

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