

# 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

March 2017 Number 3



Remember a few months ago when we were at the end of November and we began to celebrate Advent, that time to prepare for the arrival of the Christ child? We took four Sundays to arrive at the manger on Christmas Day. Well, this month we are preparing again, for 40 days.

Lent is a season of preparation for the announcement of an empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus. Because this is a greater event that has a much larger impact upon our lives, the journey will be longer and more demanding. During this journey we will not be distracted by shopping and decorating and gatherings at work and with friends and families. Yes, I am aware that some people put up decorations for Easter, but not to the degree they do for Christmas.

Some faiths, including our own, have challenged people to go on pilgrimages, on strenuous journeys to a sight of significance in that person's faith. This isn't the type of journey we will be asked to make. This journey is harder. We could find a 50 mile walk more enjoyable. Climbing incredible amounts of stairs on our knees could be less painful. This journey demands that we look at ourselves with complete honesty and serious assessment of our relationship/relationships with God and God's children (all of them).

During Lent, we give ourselves a complete spiritual physical (like the Doctor examines our physical condition, we perform a self-examination of our spirit). Do we spend time in conversation with God? How often

and how much do we speak to God vs. listening to God? Do we act lovingly toward God, or is it more like we are doing our minimum daily requirement? Do we respect and care for the Creation of which God has made us stewards, not owners? Do we love our brothers and sisters? Do we seek to do kindness for them? Do we seek justice for all God's creation, even if it means we have to give up some things? These are not simple yes and no questions. They are challenging and may cause pain. Remember going to the doctor and the doctor did something to help you that was painful? This is how we do a spiritual physical.

We are to invest ourselves fully in the coming gift of Easter by getting ready to invest all that we are in the presence and promise of God. Being a Disciple of Jesus isn't about a name on a membership card, or getting a pin to wear. It is about being Christ-like. Loving and living the way Jesus taught us to live in harmony and love with all God's children. It means overcoming fear with compassion, converting anger into the energy to seek justice, and transforming selfishness into caring support for our brothers and sisters.

I invite you to take time every day, maybe 30-60 minutes at a specific time for your spiritual physical. Use all the tools available, tools like prayer, reading the Bible, worship, writing out thoughts and fears in a journal for God, and any other tool you might use. We will start on March 1st at 7:00 p.m. with a service of worship for Ash Wednesday. During that service we

will dust off our tools and get them ready for use.

Shalom, *Darrell*

## MARCH ELDERS & DEACONS

Listed below are those serving in Dec:

**Elders:** Charlie Hebenstreit &  
John Glover

**Deacons:** All of us

## MARCH SERMONS & SCRIPTURE



## DW GRACE GROUP

On Feb. 16th the DWF Group held its monthly meeting, starting with a covered dish meal and fellowship. We discussed several upcoming events, including the regional Spring Conference in which we have been asked to provide the drinks, yogurt & juice. It will be held at Macon First on March 11th from 08:45-3:00 pm. The theme is Breaking the Cycle; Our Light Rising. Anyone wishing to attend can sign up online @gadisciples.org or by mail into the main office in Macon.

We will be having our 2nd annual vendor's fair. It will be in the spring instead of in July. The date is April 8th from 9:00-2:00. This is open to small businesses & will feature women who are owners of a small business. There will be lots of great

vendors and DWF will be having a bake sale and sandwiches. Please mark your calendar for this event. You don't want to miss out on all the great deals.

Additionally, we have been discussing having our own local retreat. Our theme is Flutterby and we will be going to Calloway Gardens. If you are interested in an event with lots of fun, fellowship, laughter and food, please join us. Angela Crawford is heading up our search for accommodations.

The DWF is providing multiple items to the Camp Christian Gala auction coming up on March 4th. We have sent a Kitchen Basket with one of our cookbooks, prayer pals, pray shawl and several other items. Please, if you are able, go and help support the effort to improve our camp.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for their efforts and support in our 1st annual Sweetheart Supper and Pie Auction. The event was a great success and we had 37 people in attendance. We had approximately 20 visitors in attendance and everyone had a great time. We would like to extend a big "thank you" to all those who helped set up & take down, prepare food, baked pies and came out to this event. We had a lot of great sponsors and a wonderful DJ. Thanks to Chris Rogers for providing our dance music and getting everyone on the dance floor. We made well over \$500 on this event. Thank you all.

If you want some great fun, fellowship and laughs, join us on the third Thursday of every month. We always have a great meditation moment as well as lots of love to share as sisters in Christ. Have a wonderful month.

Jeannetta Stokes, President

# March 2017

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday                        | Saturday                           |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|   |   |   | 1   | 2  | 3<br><i>Jeannetta Stokes</i>  | 4<br><b>Gala at Camp Christian</b> |
| 5   | 6<br><b>Transition Team Meeting 7:00</b><br><i>Phil Bosarge</i> | 7<br><b>Breakfast 8:00 a.m.</b><br><b>Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00</b><br><i>Savanna Gowin</i> | 8   | 9<br><b>Radio Club Meeting 7:00</b>  | 10<br><i>Doreen Campbell</i>  | 11                                 |
| 12  | 13  | 14<br><b>Breakfast 8:00 a.m.</b><br><b>Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00</b>                        | 15  | 16<br><b>DW Grace Group 7:00</b>   | 17                            | 18                                 |
| 19<br><b>Fellowship Dinner 6:00</b><br><b>St. Patrick's Day theme</b> | 20  | 21<br><b>Breakfast 8:00 a.m.</b><br><b>Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00</b>                        | 22  | 23<br><b>Bariatric Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.</b><br><i>Marsha Vandervort</i> | 24<br><i>John Hebenstreit</i> | 25                                 |
| 26  | 27  | 28<br><b>8:00 a.m.</b><br><b>Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00</b><br><i>Mike Rogers</i>            | 29<br><b>Prayer Shawl Mtg. 7:00 pm</b><br><i>Melissa Hollar<br/>Sharon Kay<br/>Duncan</i> | 30   | 31                            |                                    |

## **It's All About Attitude** (Author Unknown)

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have. Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or...I can be thankful the grass is getting watered for free. Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money or...I can be glad my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste. Today I can grumble about my health or...I can rejoice that I am alive. Today I can lament over all my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or...I can feel grateful they allowed to be born. Today I can cry because roses have thorns or...I can celebrate that thorns have roses. Today I can mourn my lack of friends or...I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships. Today I can complain because I have to go to school or...I can eagerly open my mind and fill it with rick new tidbits of knowledge. Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework or...I can feel honored because He has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.

I get to play a big part into what kind of day I will have.

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