

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

Pastor's Corner

The Christmas Spirit may be a little bluer this year than in the past. With all the concern about the economy and jobs we may feel that it is not possible to do as much for our families as we have in the past. This might be true if Christmas was merely about buying things for family members. Instead it is about honoring a gift given to each of us, a life. The gift didn't originate in a factory, nor was it shipped from overseas. It wasn't available in any mall or store, nor could Santa bring it down the chimney. It came from the love of God for you and I and everyone else in the world.

Try something different this year. Plan a family event as part of Christmas, an event that represents the real Spirit of the season. Go caroling as a family or as a group of families, not just in your neighborhood but for families that cannot get out or families that you know are having a hard time. When you finish caroling, deliver something homemade, cookies, bread, or something similar, (maybe even fruitcake—not the kind that can double as a door stop).

Contact local food pantries that will be open on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or places that will serve a meal that day and act as a family volunteer. Wear festive clothes and make it as joyous a time as you can for those who have no place else to go for food.

Is there an elderly person you know with no family with whom to share the holidays? Invite them to Christmas dinner. Use your imagination and truly give of yourself. You may find that it will be one of the richest Christmases ever.

If your children are too little for these activities, share a Christmas book reading time. My favorite is still The Littlest Angel. Remember the story of the little boy who goes to Heaven and becomes an angel, not a very good angel, but an angel none the less. On Christmas he is challenged to give his greatest gift to the infant Jesus. Just in case you never heard the story, I'll let you find out the rest by reading it. I have a copy that I would be happy to loan to anyone.

The best memories of Christmas are never about the presents wrapped under the tree, but about the presence shared with each other and with the Presence of God.

Shalom and Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.
Darrell

DECEMBER ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in Dec. are: Elders – Irv Shaw and Jo Smith and Deacons – Ann Von Almen, David Von Almen, Juliet Nolde, and Terry Harper.



CMF BREAKFAST



The December Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday the 6th. Come and enjoy a nice breakfast and some great fellowship.

Following the breakfast is the annual Warner Robins Christmas Parade, and we will once again provide hot coffee and hot chocolate for those attending the parade. This is one of our outreach projects for the year, so everyone is invited to come help serve the community and have a ringside seat for the beginning of the parade. Last year we had a great time with this service and enjoyed the reactions of the public getting something FREE.

If anyone would like to provide homemade cookies to go along with the hot coffee and hot chocolate, we would greatly appreciate the donation.

Come and enjoy serving others at this wonderful time of the year.

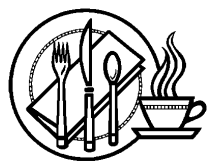
DEC. NURSERY WORKERS

Dec. 7	Nicole Crofutt
Dec. 14	Gidget Hurlbert
Dec. 21	Margaret Hicks
Dec. 28	Mike Hurlbert



Feed My Sheep

Our church helps support the local food pantry with non-perishable food items each month. The food pantry helps about 90 families each week. We have given about 632 pounds so far this year. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Nov. 12 at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: Carl Shaw, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Winona Smith, and Juanita Gunnin. Our next gathering will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12th at Ole Times Country Buffet.

CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS



Toilet Tissue
 Gallon zip lock bags
 Paper Towels
 Oblong divided foam dinner plates

CWF GRACE GROUP

We met on Nov. 20th at 7:30. There were nine ladies attending. Margaret Hicks gave the program, "Hands". Sharon-Kay Duncan was hostess. Our next meeting will be on Dec. 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Brenda McReynolds. Each lady is asked to bring a finger food item.

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale was held on Sat., Nov. 22nd. We want to thank everyone who donated baked items, crafts or helped us in any way. Darrell donated a counted cross-stitch picture of an angel with 2 small children that he had made himself. The lucky recipient of this picture was Sharon-Kay Duncan. A special thanks goes to Norbert Duncan and Denny McReynolds who put the big sign in the front yard and then removed it for us. We appreciated you very much. We made \$890.52 from our sale. Thank you all.



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Bathroom Tissue
 Lysol Spray
 Children's Tylenol
 Children's Cough Medicine
 Copy Paper
 Pens (red and green)

A WISH LIST FOR OUR CHURCH

Kitchen:

- Sugar scoop
- Canisters for sugar and tea bags
- Cookie sheets
- Regular size set of cookware
- Salt & pepper shakers (large size for use on stove)
- New knife set
- Container designed to store plastic shopping bags

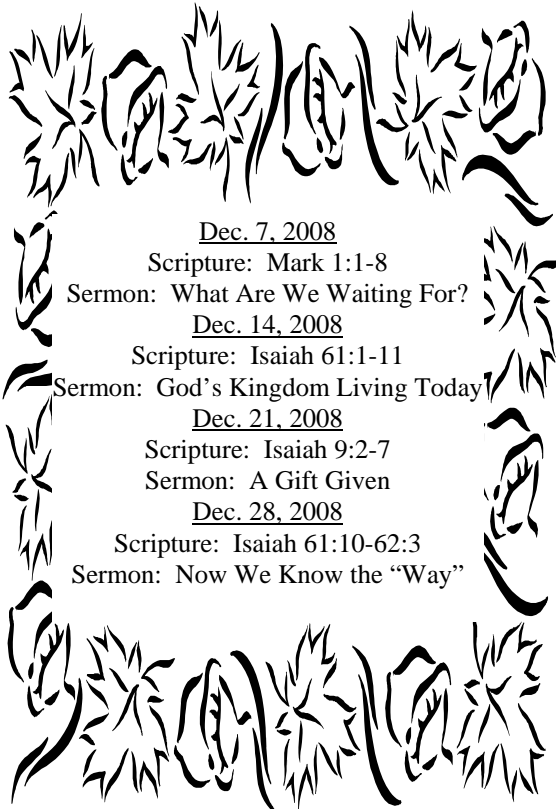
Nursery:

- New mattress and bedding for baby bed (27 1/4" x 51 5/8")
- 2 toy bins
- curtains/blinds
- new playpen
- changing pad cover/mat
- AA batteries (9)

- 2 receiving blankets
- air fresheners for bathroom

Youth Room:

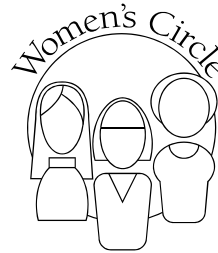
- Trash can
- Television
- Entertainment Center
- Nerf basketball
- Snacks for refrigerator



'HALO' WEEN PARTY

On Sunday, October 26th, we had a great Halloween party! The kids looked great in their costumes and some adults were brave enough to dress up too. Everyone enjoyed trick-or-treating down the Sunday School hall where the Youth Group's teens had games for the kids to play. The cakewalk was fun for everyone and a lot of cakes were donated. There were two special cakes made, one as a jack-o-lantern and the other as Scooby-Doo. Donations were received for the raffle tickets. Also, the kids made caramel apples and toasted marshmallows to make S'mores. Thank

you to all who brought food for the hot dog dinner, cakes for the cake walk, and to Doreen Campbell and Mike Hurlbert's sister, Amber, for the raffle cakes. Also, thanks to all who jumped in at the last minute to help make the party run smoothly. All together we created a fun and a memorable night for everyone.



CWF M & M GROUP

The M & M group met on Nov. 19th. We discussed and decided to postpone the talent show fundraiser until the spring. In January, we are going to start a new inspirational study. Ann Von Almen brought a fun 30 question "getting to know you" handout. We answered the questions and then shared our answers and laughed at each other. At the close of the meeting, we shared prayer concerns and prayed together.


Our December 17th meeting will be at Cheddar's at 7:00 p.m. All ladies are invited and are asked to bring an ornament to be put in the drawing. The ornament should cost \$5 or less.

A Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord, in this holy Christmas season may we draw nearer to you. How wise you were to reveal yourself in the presence of a little baby, the Christ child. You demonstrated the power and the depth of your love for each of us. Thank you for showing us that Christmas begins in the heart, and for the love that it teaches. Help us now to keep the light of the Christmas message burning brightly all year through. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

--Norman Vincent Peale

December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	2 Russ Cooper Facilities Mtg. 7:00	3 Choir Practice 7:00 Bob & Gladys Fentem	4	5	6 8:00 Men's Breakfast WR Christmas Parade
7 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Gavin Edmondson	8 Board Meeting 7:30	9 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00	10 Lunch Bunch Meets 2:00	11 Choir Practice 7:00	12	13 Progressive Dinner Couples Nite Out 6:00	
14 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Chi Rho/CYF Drama	15 Margaret Hicks	16 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Linda Gilmer	17 CWF M&M meets 7:00 Cheddar's Ted Cook	18 CWF Grace meet 6:30 at Brenda McReynolds Choir Practice 7:00 Matt Thompson	19	20	
21 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	22	23 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.		26	27	
28 "Feed My Sheep Sunday" ChiRho/CYF 4:00	29	30 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	31 Haley Crofutt Austin Hurlbert Hunter Hicks				

When Gran and Popa Moved to Florida

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Gran & Popa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear nametags because they don't know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called the wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed, because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. (It is so sad.)

At their gate, there is a dollhouse with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts.

Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night—early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the dollhouse. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for something called a luck pot.

My Gran says that Popa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the dollhouse. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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