

The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Minister
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director



For months we focus on shopping and preparing special food and goodies. We send cards and mail

gifts to friends and family far away. We over spend too much just because of the specialness of the ultimate day of celebration. On the night before, adults get as anxious as the children for the morning to arrive so the festivities might begin. On Easter Sunday we rush to the living room to exchange wondrous gifts and delicious treats. No, wait, that's Christmas.

For good or ill, Christmas surpasses Easter for our time and attention. Yet, without Easter, who would even notice the 25th of December. Our greatest personal effort should be directed toward the preparation to receive the gift of Easter.

On Easter, God liberates humanity from the ultimate fear, the fear of death. God boldly demonstrates that human authority (princes and principalities) have no power to deny God's Presence and Love.

Do not get distracted by the painful, tortuous execution of Jesus. Sometimes we get so focused upon the death and the blood and the beatings and the crucifixion, that God's defeat of death gets barely a glance. Yes, Jesus sacrificed himself for all, but God also wanted us to know that the giving of a life was not the end of the authority of God. Much like the first chapter of Genesis, we look at the creation of human beings as the focus of the story. However, the creation of Sabbath is the

pinnacle of the story. The crucifixion is important, but Easter is the pinnacle, from this height we can see the complete love and power of God laid out for the world.

When we stand before the empty tomb, we see no reason to fear anything in all of God's creation because we now realize that in God there is life. We can love our neighbor as well as our self. We can pray for those who despise us and hate us. We can love our enemies and seek to help them be whole in body and spirit. We can bring hope to the hopeless, release to those bound by fear, fulfillment to those who hunger and thirst. We quite literally no longer have anything to lose. Death is not the end; it is not failure; it is not the last word. The Word is the last Word.

Celebrate Easter this year by joyously worshipping God and giving thanks for the freedom discovered in the life, death and freedom from death in Jesus.

Shalom, *Darrell*

MARCH ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled for the month of March. are: Elders – Jo Smith & Irv Shaw and Deacons –Ann Von Almen, David Von Almen, Juliet Nolde & Terry Harper .

CMF BREAKFAST

The CMF monthly breakfast was held on Saturday, Feb, 2nd at 8:00. Six attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Ann

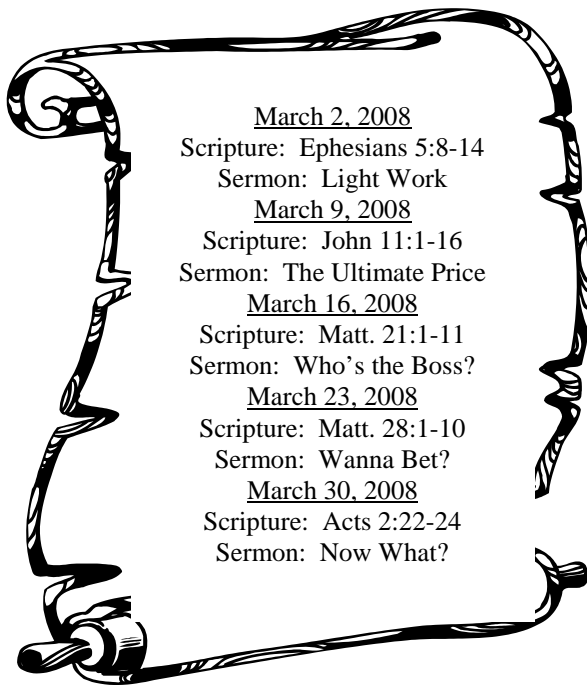


and David Von Almen and also enjoyed fellowship together. They will meet again on March 1st. Every man is invited to come, eat & share in the fellowship.



MARCH NURSERY WORKERS

March 2	Margaret Hicks
March 9	Gidget Hurlbert
March 16	Nicole Crofutt
March 23	Mike Hurlbert
March 30	Ruth Griffith



CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

Napkins
 Oblong foam divided plates
 Paper towels
 Bathroom Tissue

Church Bloopers

- Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help you.
- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals



SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Bathroom tissue
 Sanitary Napkins
 Tampons
 Adult inspirational books for their library
 (authors – Joyce Meyer, John Maxwell, T.D. Jakes, Paula White)



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 93 pounds so far this year. Thank you for your support in our church's mission project.



LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Feb. 13th at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those present were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Bill & Imogene Bartoe, Winona Smith, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks, Curtis, Nadine & Lewis Scaggs, Evelyn Hawkins, and Keith & Glenda Ewert. The next meeting will be on March 12th at Ole Times Country Buffet at 2:00 p.m.



Our congratulations go to Forrest Schultz. He won 2nd place in the Houston County Spelling Bee. We are very proud of you.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Our custodian has reported that one of the church doors has been left unlocked several times recently. If you have been working in one of the rooms, please make certain that you have locked that door when you leave. This is very important to our church's security. Thank you.



On Sunday, April 20th, the Covenant Players will be here to provide a drama after our Fellowship Dinner. We need to provide \$225 plus housing for a night or two for three or four college aged young people. There will also be a freewill offering taken after the performance. The Covenant Players have been around since at least the 1960's. These young people travel around the country performing church related dramas as a ministry. Please make note on your calendar of this date and invite friends and neighbors, especially any teenagers interested in drama, to attend.

Gifts to defray the cost of the program should be designated for **Covenant Players**. If you can provide overnight housing, please let the church know.

OUR ORGAN NEEDS HELP

At some time during November, our organ suffered a lightning strike. We need to have some work done on it. The estimate, without being seen is about \$500.00. It may be higher once it has been examined. If you would like to help cover this cost, please make gifts to the Organ Fund.



CWF GRACE GROUP

The CWF Grace group met Thurs., Feb. 21st. After the business session, Winona Smith gave the Study/Worship program, "Who Is Welcome At Your Table?" There were eight ladies present. Our hostess was Mary Jane Rogers.

We want to thank everyone who came to our Valentine's Dinner. We made a profit

of \$196.84. Melissa Hebenstreit won the door prize. Thank you all for your support.

FAIR TRADE ORGANIC COFFEE

The Sunday School classes have been enjoying different types of juices and coffee along with baked goods on Sunday morning. We have found a coffee that is a Fair Trade and organic product. What is Fair Trade and organic? Fair Trade builds economic independence for family farmers by: guaranteeing a fair price for their harvest, providing affordable access to credit, providing DIRECT access to American Markets and cutting out the middleman, promoting sustainable farming practices and supporting community development, such as roads and schools.

Coffee is the second largest traded commodity in the world and trading prices fluctuate wildly. Farmers are never guaranteed a fair price for their coffee and in some cases the farmers lose their farms because they can't make ends meet. Fair Trade is a co-op that the farmers are part of. The Co-ops are free to do business with anyone and are not locked into a contract with only one coffee roaster. Organic farming is beneficial because it protects farmers and their villages from direct contact with chemicals, preserves forests and wildlife, prevents erosion and flooding, provides pure, naturally great tasting coffee. Organic coffee is also grown under the shade of a forest canopy, which is home to countless animals and birds. With organic coffee, farmers use sustainable techniques that have been handed down through generations. Natural pest control and composting are practices that enhance, rather than deplete the environment.

If you buy coffee for the church, please try to make it Fair Trade Coffee.



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

The Hebenstreits transferred their membership to our church on Feb. 3rd. Sara, like her brother, David Von Almen, is a life-long member of the Disciples' church. She is also a former member of Warner Robins First. She is employed in the Personnel Dept. of Warner Robins Supply Co., working primarily with payroll and benefits. She spends a great deal of her time involved in their daughters activities, enjoys working Sudoku puzzles, and shares an interest in old movies with Charlie. The family loves the mountains and tries to vacation there each year. She and Melissa enjoy camping and hiking, which Charlie and Jessica tolerate.

Charlie retired from Anchor Glass in 2007. He currently works 4 days a week as the Home Store Manager for the **Macon Area Habitat for Humanity**. He enjoys bowling and is captain of his team in the Men's Commercial League. He is an avid reader and loves history, especially the Civil War. He spends hours working crossword puzzles in **ink**.

Melissa is a sophomore at Warner Robins High. She plays trombone and is a member of the Marching Band and the Symphonic Band and is also a member of the Beta Club and the Math Club. She enjoys reading, music, computers and TV and also shares her mother's interest in Sudoku. She plans to attend North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega to pursue a career in nursing.

Jessica is an 8th grader at Warner Robins Middle School. She is a member of the Beta Club, plays tenor saxophone in the Band, and participates in the Drama Club,

which is in rehearsal for their production of **The Wizard of Oz** to be presented in March. As a normal teenager she spends lots of time listening to music while she enjoys other interests such as drawing, writing, and chatting with friends on her computer, unless she is watching TV. Always being different from the rest, she actually prefers the beach to the mountains.

Often they will be joined in worship by Charlie's mother, Virginia, who resides at Rosemont Court in Warner Robins. She enjoys sewing and other crafts. Before moving here in 2005, she was an active member of her Eastern Star Chapter in Tampa, FL.

Sara and Charlie are also known as "Noni and Peepaw" by grandson Andrew (Charles Andrew Hebenstreit, III) who also lives here in Warner Robins with his parents, Chuck and Angie Hebenstreit, and sister, Andrea McCleese.


THE FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY

Our five-year-old grandson, Mark, couldn't wait to tell his grandfather about the movie we had watched on television, "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." The scenes with the submarine and the giant octopus had kept him wide-eyed. In the middle of the telling, my husband interrupted Mark, "What caused the submarine to sink?" With a look of incredulity Mark replied, "Grandpa, it was the 20,000 leaks!!"

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The Grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "How do you make babies?" "It's simple, replied the girl. "You change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'".

March 2008

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

							1 8:00 Men's Breakfast
2	3 Cabinet & Board Mtgs. 6:45 & 7:30	4 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	5 Choir 7:00 Phil Bosarge	6	7	8 James Layfield ***Time to set your clocks forward one hour***	
9	10 Doreen Campbell	11 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Model Club 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Charles Smith	12 Choir 7:00 Lunch Bunch 2:00	13 CWF Grace 6:30	14	15	
16 Palm Sunday Fellowship Dinner 6:00	17  St. Patrick's Day Evelyn Carroll	18 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Virginia Hebenstreit	19 Choir 7:00	20 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.	21	22	
23 Easter Sunday Marsha Vandervort Jo & Charlie Smith	24	25 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	26 Choir 7:00	27 New CWF Group meets	28 Mike Rogers	29 Sharon-Kay Duncan Melissa Hebenstreit	
30 "Feed My Sheep" Sunday	31						



Coffee versus the Cups

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, were talking at a reunion and decided to go visit their old university professor, now retired. During their visit the conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in their work and lives.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive and some exquisite, telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the alumni had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said, “Notice that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup; but you consciously went for the best cups...and then you began eyeing each other’s cups. Now consider this: Life is the coffee; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life. The type of cup one has does not define, nor change the quality of life a person lives. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us.”

God makes the coffee; man chooses the cups. The happiest people don’t have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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