

# The Christian Chronicle

Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor  
Lisa Lombardo, Music Director

## Pastor's Corner

Millions, billions, and trillions of dollars. These words have been before us almost every week, if not every day.

National debt, bail out money, bonuses, losses in personal wealth and many more labels attached to those numbers. There are times when I discover myself suffering from dizziness just trying to comprehend numbers that large.

The latest bit of number mania involves the payment of bonuses by AIG using bailout money. People have responded in anger, some because of a sense of injustice, some because they didn't get the same opportunity, some because they felt deprived in their personal hardships, while others who should be held accountable seem to be reaping rewards.

In reality, the focus upon the idea that we must all scratch and claw to get what we think we deserve and what we think we need translates into the dimension of greed. For the past many years we have lived in the dimension of greed. Get all you can because it may be gone tomorrow. Build the biggest pile of whatever and then guard it with your life, because someone else is going to try and take that pile away from you. Over the past several months we have discovered that the only threat to our welfare has been unbridled greed. Now we are all in the same boat. Remember the story Jesus told of the successful farmer who had so much that he tore down his barns to build bigger barns only to die before he could enjoy the fruits of his efforts? Our barns were houses of cards and a strong breeze has blown them apart.

How do we as Christians respond? Maybe we should return to the dimension of the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught his followers that God wants us to pray for each other, especially

those we think of as enemies. We are to surrender our coat and even our shirt if someone asks for them. The early church shared all things in common so that no one went without. Remember the sharing of a few loaves and fish that fed thousands? The dimension of God's Kingdom is still like that.

This is not an episode in the old "Twilight Zone" series; this is the faith we claim to follow. These are the words we treasure and study in worship and Bible study. They are not fantasy that cannot be applied to the "real" world; they are the world as the Real God created it to be and we must return to it.

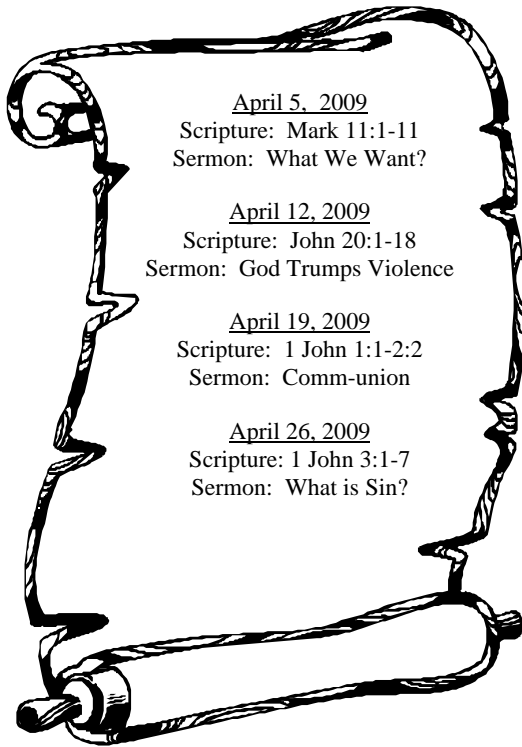
The church must reach out to those suffering from the disasters of greed and welcome them to share in the abundance of God and what God can do through the church. Maybe we can increase the number of potluck dinners (communion in the time of Paul). Maybe we can make resources available such as allowing people looking for jobs to use the church's computer to look for work and polish resumes. Maybe we can come together in small groups to pray and discuss our mistakes and work together in mutual accountability to avoid falling back into the dimension of greed. Maybe we can come back to being the Body of Christ and not just individual, single-celled organisms striving to wriggle around and hoping to survive. As the Body of Christ, not only can we thrive, we can help others to do so as well. DO we not say that all things are possible through God?

Shalom, *Darrell*



## Feed My Sheep

We gave about 632 pounds of food to the local food pantry in 2008. We have given 74 lbs. so far in 2009. The Food pantry serves about 90 families in our area every week.



April 5, 2009

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11  
Sermon: What We Want?

April 12, 2009

Scripture: John 20:1-18  
Sermon: God Trumps Violence

April 19, 2009

Scripture: 1 John 1:1-2:2  
Sermon: Comm-union

April 26, 2009

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7  
Sermon: What is Sin?



Jaunita Gunnin  
Novy & Mary Ellen Foland  
Chris Bedgood & family

## APRIL ELDERS & DEACONS

The Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in April are: Elders – Lois Crawford & Randy Bickley and Deacons – Beth Bickley, Chris Rogers, Juliet Nolde & Nicole Crofutt.



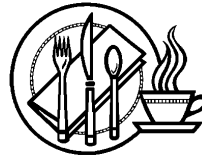
## CMF BREAKFAST



The CMF met on Sat., March 7<sup>th</sup>. There were eleven people attending the breakfast prepared by Ann and David Von Almen. They will meet again on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited.

## APRIL NURSERY WORKERS

April 5	Margaret Hicks
April 12	Gidget Hurlbert
April 19	Ruth Griffith
April 26	Melissa & Angie



## LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at Ole' Times Country Buffet. Those in attendance were: Carl Shaw, David Von Almen, Curtis & Nadine Scaggs, Winona Smith, Corey & Juanita Gunnin, Lois Crawford, Evelyn Hawkins, Lonnie & Margaret Hicks. The next gathering will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Ole Times Country Buffet.

## CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY



The Property Committee has planned the spring workday for Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00 a.m. (this will also serve as the April men's breakfast). Lunch will also be served about noon. We have plenty of work that needs to be done to get our facilities ready for Easter and the summer. Please come and help us clean up the church and church grounds. The property chairman thanks everyone in advance for coming out for the Spring Work Day. A big "Thank You" is also given to the Von Almens for breakfast and to Margaret, Beth and Sharon-Kay for preparing lunch for the workers.

## CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS



Paper towels  
39 gallon trash bags  
8 oz. Styrofoam coffee cups  
White napkins  
Rectangle styrofoam divided plates  
Coffee and Creamer  
Bathroom tissue  
Dessert plates  
Sugar  
Zip Lock bags (quart & gallon)  
Bagged Ice

## The Lighter Side of Observations

- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.
- Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut save you thirty cents?



## CWF GRACE GROUP

CWF Grace Group met on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 with our quarterly covered dish meal. There were nine ladies attending. After the business meeting, Lois Crawford gave the worship/study lesson titled "The Dead are Raised". Our next meeting will be on Thurs., April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

We will be hosting the District Spring Conference this year. It will be held on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Both CWF groups will be working together providing the meal at noon.

On Saturday, April 25 we will have a yard sale from 8:00-2:00. Please keep your yard sale items at your home until April 19<sup>th</sup>. You may bring those items to church between Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. That is the deadline for bringing items to church. We no longer have storage space to keep yard sale items long term. We cannot accept any electronics, computers, exercise equipment or large furniture. Please make sure all items are clean.



## CWF M&M GROUP

The M&M Group will meet on March 26<sup>th</sup>. They are doing a new Bible study called The Friendships of Women: The Beauty and Power of God's Plan for Us by Dee Brestin. All women are welcome to join them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00.

## SUPER SOUP SUNDAY

The CWF M&M Group's Souper Soup Sunday was a great success! God even helped with SNOW to get us all in the mood for some hot soup and warm bread! Many soups of all types were in the competition and the decision of which soup was best was tough. But, the two winners prevailed – runner up was Chicken 'n' Dumplings made by Pat Gunnin. Her award was a huge teacup (planter) with a ladle and soup beans. The winner of all the soups was Jannet Thompson with her Chicken Noodle Soup. She took home a hand-painted apron with a red cape attached. The painted design was made

by Jessica Hebenstreit with a Souper Soup "S" and stating "Super Souper". With donations at the door and change used to vote for your favorite soup, the total amount raised was \$267.07. The M&M Group will use the funds to complete as much of the "Wish List" that has been printed in the newsletter for the past few months. The group will start with the needs of the nursery and keep going from there. Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and contributions; all together we can accomplish a lot!



## SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

- Snacks for children for support group (juice boxes, fruit snacks etc)
- Allergy & cold medication
- Pain medication
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Deodorant



Welcome Our New Members

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS

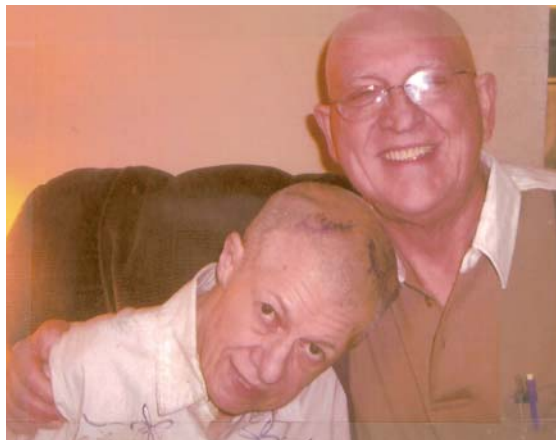
I'm Kyle Austin McReynolds. I was born in Pensacola, FL and raised in Warner Robins. I am 15 years old and basketball takes up my schedule. I absolutely love my family with all my heart, and they are the best role models I could have. I enjoy going outside to shoot basketball and I try to do it every day. I enjoy dating girls too. I go to Warner Robins High School and I am in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

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Juanita Gunnin was born in Huntsville, AL, the only daughter of the family, having an older brother, now deceased. She left Huntsville and moved to Birmingham in the summer of 1945 where she finished school at Ensley High School in 1947. She was working for Terminal Transportation Company where she met, fell in love and married her husband William (Bill) for 35 yrs. He passed away in 1986. She and Bill were blessed with three wonderful sons – Lee (oldest), Lance (deceased) and Latham (Corey, the youngest). There are 4 loving grandchildren - Joshua & Jessica living in Birmingham and Mariah & Meghan living in CA. Juanita, Corey & Pat will be flying to CA in June for Mariah & Meghan's college graduation.

Juanita was a member of Roebuck Christian Church for 23 years and served as Deaconess, Elder, Financial Secretary of the church and a member of CWF for all those years. She volunteered for Eastern Area Christian Ministries (Food and clothing mission) and also delivered Meals on Wheels for many years. She enjoys reading, walking and making friends. After 77 years living in Alabama she moved to the "Big Little City of Byron" and loves it dearly, and she found her new church family in Warner Robins at First Christian.

### A NOTE FROM THE FOLANDS



"Thanks to everyone who sent us cards. They meant so much to Mary Ellen and were encouraging. What she has gone through is not easy, but she is doing great! After two operations, the stimulators have been turned on. We see modest improvements already. The stimulation will be increased gradually and will be adjusted over the next six months before the maximum benefits will be seen. Thank you so much. You can see the incisions where they drilled the holes in her skull to insert the leads"



### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children's Sunday school class has taken on a new format. We now have a one-room Sunday school class for ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The curriculum used is called "Live Big", and it is full of activities, worksheets, Bible stories, videos, and music to help us teach our children the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus. Nicole Crofutt and Juliet Nolde have teamed up to teach the class, and we have already had up to 10 kids in the class! What a great start!



### PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be special days for us to celebrate the ever-awesome sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ. On Palm Sunday, join the children during Sunday school by visiting a Jerusalem marketplace. There will be booths where the children use special money to make crafts and to try foods similar to what might have been going on in Jerusalem the day that Jesus rode in on a donkey. Then just before worship, we will wave palms for Jesus and proceed into the sanctuary for worship.

On Easter, let's celebrate together with a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday school hour, 10:00 a.m., and an Easter egg hunt for the children. Then we will all worship together on this very special day of our faith.

### COUPLES NIGHT OUT

A Couples Night Out is in the works. The tentative date is set for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Meet at El Jalisiense on Russell Pkwy. at 5:30.

### EASTER THOUGHTS

Easter is a time of love, of family, and of peace. It is a time when we say a quiet thanks for all that we have and for all that the future holds.

Easter is a feeling in our hearts of hope and faith and trust. It is a day of miracles; a day when our dreams seem a little closer; a time of retrospection for what has been and anticipation of all that will be.

And it is a time for remembering with love and appreciation the people in our lives who make a difference...people like you.

By Anna Marie Edwards

*Happy Easter Wishes to You and Your Family!*



# April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Mark & Donna Staub	2 Barbara Hicks Norbert & Sharon-Kay Duncan	3	4 <b>CWF Spring Conference</b>
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b> ChiRho/CYF 4:00 Nicole Crofutt	6 <b>Cabinet/Board Mtg.</b> 6:45 & 7:30 Don Lawhun	7 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	8 <b>Lunch Bunch Meet 2:00</b> Choir Practice 7:00	9 <b>Maundy Thursday Service 7:00</b>	10 Jo Smith	11
12 <b>Easter Sunday</b> ChiRho/CYF 4:00	13	14 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00 Model Club 7:00	15 Choir Practice 7:00 Keith & Glenda Ewert	16 <b>CWF Grace Group 7:00</b> Debra Scaggs	17 Stephanie Postell	18 Dawn McReynolds Irv & Sonia Shaw
19 <b>Fellowship Dinner 6:00</b> ChiRho/CYF 4:00	20 Glenda Ewert Ted & Laurie Cook	21 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	22 Choir Practice 7:00 Cathrina Lawson	23 <b>CWF M&amp;M Group 7:00</b>	24	25 <b>CWF Yard Sale 8:00-2:00</b>
26 <b>"Feed My Sheep Sunday"</b> ChiRho/CYF 4:00	27	28 8:00 Breakfast at Huddle House Bible Study 7:00	29 Choir Practice 7:00 Facilities Mtg. 7:00	30		

## BEAUTY TIPS

Below is a wonderful poem. Audrey Hepburn wrote it when she was asked to share her “beauty tips”. It was read at her funeral years later.

- For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
- For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
- For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
- For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.
- For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.
- People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed; never throw out anyone.
- Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.
- As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

### **First Christian Church**

*(Disciples of Christ)*

**100 North Houston Road  
Warner Robins, GA 31093**

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