

WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

100 North Houston Road

Warner Robins, GA 31093

(478) 923-1536

pastor@fcc-wr.org

www.fcc-wr.org

Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am

April 2013 Number 4



I want to express my gratitude for all the words of comfort and support and all of the prayers that have gone out for my family since my father passed away on March 6, 2013. It has been a time of thanksgiving, laughter, tears, memories and gratitude.

As a pastor, I have been around death on a regular basis. I have lost grandmothers, and my mother, lost friends and members of the churches I have served. Since coming to Warner Robins, I have witnessed the presentation of Military Honors at least once a year. But we never really discuss death; rather we talk about the one that has died. We talk about the needs of the surviving family, and/or we talk about going to be with God.

I write this column days before Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. For the most part, we focus upon Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter and skip the reality that is Good Friday. Yet we all face that kind of event in our families and for ourselves. Rather than avoiding the topic or stepping quietly around it, maybe we should face it head on.

Jesus died on Good Friday. His mother and a few of the women who followed him and according to John, the disciple that Jesus loved the best, witnessed Jesus' death. The women then gathered with Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus and prepared Jesus for a hasty burial. This small group took it upon themselves to stay through to the end. They witnessed the transformation from life to death. This was not unusual in the ancient world; as a matter of fact, it is only recently that people stopped witnessing the arrival of death and the transition from life.

Today we step away; we even disguise it with cosmetics so that our loved one "looks so natural". We do not want to grow old and die. We don't want to see death in reality. Yet without death, there can be no eternal life.

This does not mean we should all rush to die, but rather accept the reality that death occurs and that there are times when it is indeed a blessing. We

should do our best to live a full and generous life and then not fear what comes next since our faith teaches us that God is waiting for us on the other side just as God waits for us every day.

My father had been in the nursing home for 6 years. Most of that time he did not recognize family or friends. During the last year he spent most of his time asleep. I am grateful that his dementia did not cause him to be angry or abusive. I am grateful that he has found peace and is with mom again. During the military honors that were rendered by the VFW, I met a man that had known dad for a long time. He was the one who presented the flag after the salute and taps. My father lives in the memories of those who knew him and the stories they shared as well as in the memories I possess. He is with me in my heart and will never leave. Yes, death causes us pain, but it also sweetens those memories that remain.

Do not be afraid; remember that God is with us. Jesus quoted the 22 Psalm from the cross. We remember the words, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me." But we rarely go to the Psalm and read the whole thing. Here is how it ends.

"From thee comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Yea, to him shall all the proud of the earth bow down; before him shall all who go down to the dust, and he who cannot keep himself alive. Posterity shall serve him; men shall tell of the Lord to the coming generation, and proclaim deliverance to a people yet unborn, that he has wrought it."

Our God is the God of the living and those who die remain alive in our God. Thanks be to God.

Shalom, *Darrell*

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

We had 20 attendees at the March 3rd, men's breakfast. The next breakfast will be held on Sunday April 7th at 8:30 a.m.

APRIL ELDERS & DEACONS

Listed below are the Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in April. The Elders are Juliet Nolde and Randy Bickley. The Deacons are Chris Rogers, Nicole Croffut, Wayne Scaggs, and Laurie Cook.

LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Wednesday, March 13th at The Golden Corral. Those attending were Winona Smith and Carl Shaw. If you have not attended the Lunch Bunch gathering before, try it. The food is good and the fellowship is great too. Their next get together will be on April 10th.

DISCIPLE WOMEN - GRACE GROUP

The Grace Group met Thurs., March 21st at 6:00 p.m. with 10 ladies present. Joys and concerns were shared. The program was presented by Lois and Angela Crawford. It was a report on the book "Ninety Minutes in Heaven". Our next meeting will be April 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited.

The Spring Conference our group plans to attend will be in Albany on April 6th. The cost is \$15.00 with early registration and \$20.00 at the door. We are asking people to donate gently used books that a fellow sister would enjoy reading for our Book Sale. You can leave them in the Narthex in the box provided.

Our annual yard sale will be April 13th, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please bring your clean used items the Sunday through Wednesday before the 13th. We cannot accept furniture or computer items. We appreciate your continued support to make our yard sales a success.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

On Sunday, March 17th we had our first prayer shawl dedication. We had six finished shawls that were delivered to our shut in members. A big "thank you" goes to the CCF kids who helped deliver them and also the St Patrick Day baskets to our shut-in members. Everyone who received a shawl was surprised and pleased by the tangible evidence of prayer. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We have patterns to share, teachers, and fellowship. If you would like to donate some yarn to the shawl ministry, please see Brenda McReynolds.

CCF IS INVITING YOU TO A SPAGHETTI DINNER

The spaghetti dinner will be held on Sunday, April 21st right after church in the Fellowship Hall. The menu is Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, and Beverage.

The cost is \$6.00 or \$15 per family. Please purchase your tickets in advance from Robin Robertson, Jeannetta Stokes, or Mary Jane Rogers. Advance ticket purchases aren't required, but will be helpful in planning.

Calling all Dads and kids for desserts!! Are you up for the best dessert contest? Any dessert donations are welcome.

All proceeds will benefit CCF! Thank you for supporting us.

"AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"

Madison Robertson recently attended a Core Meeting for Family Promise with her mother, Robin Robertson. Although she drew pictures during the meeting, she obviously listened closely because when she got home she told her mother she wanted to raise money for Family Promise. She held her first ever Lemonade Stand (her own idea) and she raised \$11.00 for the families. Robin is the coordinator for our church, which is the newest Support Congregation for Family Promise. Madison presented her check to Family Promise at the Coordinator's Meeting on March 13th. We are all so proud of you, Madison. Below is a picture of Madison presenting her check to Family Promise.



CAMP CHRISTIAN GALA

The gala was well attended. The goal for the auction was hoped to be around \$17,000. The actual total after expenses was \$20,000 plus.

April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 <i>Barbara Hicks</i> <i>Norbert & S-K</i>	3	4	5 <i>Nicole Crofutt</i>	6 <i>Don Lawhun</i>
7 8:30 DMF Breakfast Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 CCF 4:00-6:00	8 BOARD MEETING 7:30	9 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	10 The Lunch Bunch Golden Corral 1:00	11	12	13 CWF YARD SALE 8:00-2:00
14 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	15 <i>Keith & Glenda Ewert</i>	16 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 <i>Debra Scaggs</i>	17 <i>Stephanie Postell</i>	18 DW GRACE Group 7:00 <i>Dawn McReynolds</i>	19 <i>Dave & Pam Palmer</i>	20 <i>Glenda Ewert</i> <i>Ted & Laurie Cook</i>
21 CCF Spaghetti Dinnr Chi Rho/CYF	22 <i>Cathrina Lawson</i> <i>Ann Glover</i>	23 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	24 Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:00	25	26	27
28 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00	29 <i>Juanita Gunnin</i>	30 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	Please remember: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearts to Heroes items Our church pantry items Safe House items Food for the Food Pantry 			

FAMILY PROMISE TRAINING MEETING

The time is drawing near for Family Promise Houston County to begin hosting families. As a support congregation, we will be assisting a host church with their needs during the time they host families. Before we can volunteer, training is required. The first round of training was held on March 23rd. Robin Robertson attended as the coordinator for our church. If anyone would like additional information or would like to attend training, please speak with Robin for the date, time & place. You can also visit <http://familypromisehoustonco.org> to learn more about Family Promise.

CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

12 oz Solo cups	8 oz. coffee cups
Paper towels	Dish Soap
Oblong divided plates	Sugar
Dessert Plates	Tall trash bags
Lg. Zip Lock bags	Qt. Zip Lock bags
All purpose spray cleaners	

A NEW OUTREACH FUND

A new Community Outreach Fund has been started so our church can reach out to our community in a new way. We plan to give quarterly birthday parties for the residents of Rosemont, and to have a community garden to share with others. If you would like to give some money to the new outreach fund, please note on your donation **Community Outreach Fund-Rosemont** or **Community Outreach Fund-Garden**.

SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Toilet Paper	Laundry soap
Cleaning Supplies	Dish detergent
Fabric Softener	Paper towels
Napkins	Kleenex

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