

WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
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Sunday School: 10:00am
Worship: 11:00am
December 2013 Number 12



I am writing this article the week before Thanksgiving. We already have a growing collection of food stuffs for the food pantry with another Sunday to go. We will be able to provide a very good boost to assist feeding the people in our community.

Now we look to the Christmas season and the opportunity to help others. Once again, we will work with Heifer International to provide gifts that will not only help feed a family, but provide a source of income for the future. Heifer International provides livestock, such as camels, llamas, heifers, sheep, and goats. They also offer ducks and geese, chickens and rabbits, trees and bees. People in need of water pumps or who want to start a fish farm can be given what they need. You can check out the Heifer International at www.heifer.org.

If you want to make a gift of a future for a family, just put a check in the offering plate or in the mail made out with FCC and Heifer on the memo line. Over the past couple of years we have provided heifers, llamas, chickens, rabbits, bees and trees. Let's see what we can provide this year.

We will also continue to assist the food bank by collecting food. Demands at the local food pantries are up. More people are in need of food assistance, and we can provide help during the Christmas holiday.

We as a society can be easily swept up in the press to buy and buy until we overspend and find ourselves paying bills for months after all the decorations are stored away until next year. But the focus of gift giving stems from the Magi who gave gifts to the infant Jesus. When we give a gift, we should strive to give something that has meaning, not only to the person, but also represents our love for that person. Some of the best gifts are the gifts that have been created, or made by the giver. The gift creates a memory that can survive long after the gift has been given. Remember the gifts that your children gave you. How many do you still have? We still have pencil holders, and recipe card holders, and sculptures, and handprints in plaster. We love and appreciate all the gifts that are given to us, but there are always the special ones that

become treasures. This is how we should approach gift giving.

Shalom, Darrell

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Disciple Men's breakfast will be held on December 1st at 8:30 a.m. David and Ann will prepare a delicious breakfast and everyone can enjoy fellowship with friends.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Children's Sunday School class meets every Sunday at 10:00.

DECEMBER SERMONS & SCRIPTURE

Dec. 1, 2013

Hanging of the Greens Service

Dec. 8, 2013

Scripture: Romans 15:4-13
Sermon: *Worth Waiting For*

Dec. 15, 2013

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10
Sermon: *Prepare the Way*

Dec. 22, 2013

Scripture: Matt. 1:18-25
Sermon: *Scandal Upon Scandal*

Dec. 29, 2013

Scripture: Psalm 148
Sermon: *Praising God!*



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP

The CCF will host a Fellowship Dinner and Christmas Play on Dec. 15th at 6:00 p.m. Come join us for a festive evening of fun, good food and fellowship. Bring your favorite side dish or vegetable. Meat will be provided.

DECEMBER ELDERS & DEACONS

Listed below are the Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in December. The Elders are John Glover and _____. The Deacons are Dakota Crofutt, Ethan Thompson, Sean Palmer and _____.

LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on Nov. 13th at the Golden Corral. Those attending were Carl Shaw, Winona Smith, Juanita Gunnin, Curtis and Nadine Scaggs. If you have not attended the Lunch Bunch gathering, consider attending, enjoying good food and fellowship with friends you may only see on Sundays. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Their next get together will be held at the Golden Corral on Dec. 11th at 1:00 p.m.

DISCIPLE WOMEN GRACE NEWS

The Grace Group met at the church, Thurs., November 21st at 7:00 p.m. with nine members and 1 visitor. We are still receiving money for items ordered at the Bazaar, and at present have well over \$900.00 profit. We appreciate all the support and help from the congregation, whether donating items, baking, shopping, or moving tables and chairs.

We will be filling stockings for the Safe House children again this year and possibly the mothers. Our Christmas party will be Thursday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m. with Jeannetta as hostess at the scout camp. It is a finger food dinner, and we are having a cookie/candy exchange. Bring 5 to 6 dozen to share. Bring a container for the cookies you take home. All ladies are invited. We will be carpooling from the church at 5:30 p.m.

Plans are still ongoing for our church women's retreat. There will be more information next month. Winona Smith presented the program – "Women of Faith – Mary, Mother of Jesus".

A THANK YOU NOTE TO THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Dear Ladies of the Prayer Shawl Committee,
What a wonderful surprise Sunday when you came and presented me with such a beautiful Prayer Shawl. It is so soft and warm and I will put it to good use---It really brightens my day.

I would like to commend you ladies for such beautiful spiritual love you put into each shawl. It's such a blessing.

My thanks to each of you ladies for your thoughtfulness and kindness. It was so sweet of you.

In Christian Love
Juanita Gunnin

CHURCH PANTRY NEEDS

13 gallon kitchen garbage bags
39 gallon trash bags
Large bottles of liquid hand soap
Oblong divided foam plates
Small dessert plates
Dish soap
Spray cleaner

SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Paper towels
Bathroom tissue
Trash bags
Laundry soap
Laundry fabric softener
Dish Soap
Kitchen cleaners

GIFTS THAT DON'T COST MONEY

The Gift of Listening...But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening

The Gift of Affection...Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate love you have for family & friends.

The Gift of Laughter...Clip cartoons. Share articles & funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

The Gift of a Written Note...It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, & may even change a life.

The Gift of a Compliment...A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

The Gift of a Favor...Everyday, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of Solitude...There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times & give the gift of solitude to others.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition...The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it's not that hard to say, "Hello" or "Thank You."

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HANUKKAH

**Life's most beautiful things are not seen with the eyes, but felt in the heart.
Wishing you all a special season of the heart.**

December 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| <p>Hanging of the Greens DM's Breakfast 8:30 Chi Rho/CYF 4:00</p> | <p>Board Mtg. 7:30</p> | <p>Cracker Barrell 8:00 Bible Study 7 pm <i>Pam Palmer</i></p> | | | | <p><i>Gavin Edmondson</i></p> |
| <p>Congregational Meeting Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Bible Study 7:00</p> | | <p>Cracker Barrell 8:00 Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>Lunch Bunch 1:00 <i>Jennifer Lamm</i></p> | <p>DW Grace Christmas Party 6:00</p> | | <p><i>William Griffith</i></p> |
| <p>CCF Fellowship Dinner & Christmas Play 6:00 <i>Margaret Hicks</i></p> | | <p>Cracker Barrell 8:00 Bible Study 7 pm <i>Ted Cook</i></p> | <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg. 7:00 <i>Olivia Gowin</i> <i>Matthew Thompson</i></p> | | | |
| <p>Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Bible Study 7:00</p> | <p><i>Kyle McReynolds</i></p> | <p>Christmas Eve Service</p> |  | | | |
| <p>Chi Rho/CYF 4:00 Bible Study 7:00</p> | | <p><i>Haley Crofutt</i> <i>Austin Hurlbert</i> <i>Hunter Hicks</i></p> | | | | |

After Christmas Thoughts

A friend took the trimmings off the Christmas tree and carefully packed them away. The bells and the laurel and the candles were removed. The tree was carried out, the floor cleared, the chairs and table put in place. Then the remark was made, "It's all over till next Christmas." Is that the way you felt? No, it is not all over----it has only just begun. If you have had a "merry" Christmas, then you brought the Christmas spirit to it. You must have the spirit of Christmas in order to make a real Christmas. It is all the kind and loving deeds you did through the year that make the day a happy one.

The one day called Christmas is past, but the spirit is with us. Christmas is a holy spirit; it is a helpful spirit; it is the spirit of loving-kindness carried into the next year.

William Barnes Lower

One Christmas a missionary in Africa was given many gifts. Each one was treasured by him, for it represented love. But his favorite was not a gift that could be seen or touched. A man came to him with his gift, a simple one. The missionary knew the man came from a village deep in the jungle, miles away. "Thank you, my friend, but you should never have come so far alone, and through treacherous jungle." "But Sir," the smiling native replied, "the walk was part of my gift to you." Gifts wrapped in tissue and ribbons are exciting and beautiful, but the wrappings are torn and thrown away. The gifts are enjoyed for a while, then they wear out and are gone, even forgotten. But what we give of ourselves lives on. The gifts have been put away; the tree looks a little shabby. Do you feel, as one teen-age girl put it, "sort of blah and letdown?" Or is there still joy in your heart and excitement in living? Was Christmas centered on the tree or on Christ, who lives on in the heart and cannot be put away, worn out, broken, nor forgotten? Has his precious gift of love been accepted, and has he been given a gift of love in return?

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