

# WARNER ROBINS DISCIPLE



Rev. Darrell Vandervort, Pastor

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

100 North Houston Road

Warner Robins, GA 31093

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Sunday School: 10:00am

Worship: 11:00am

December 2014 Number 12



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Yes, it is that time and 2014 is nearly over. Your calendar is probably overwhelmed with events and trips and you have only 31 days to do it all (not counting the shorter time until Christmas). But we need to remember that this is NOT only a time of parties and food and travel, it is a celebration of a gift given to us, a gift for which we must demonstrate gratitude. It is not about what I get, but rather, how much I can do and give for those who truly need. (I will confess that there are three little girls who may not "need" what Marsha and I will give, but grandparents have unique definitions for "need".)

This year we will again support Heifer International. This organization provides livestock and other resources to people all over the globe who need to be fed and to earn a living, even here in the USA. Gifts of any size can be used to purchase everything from bees to cattle, from fish to education for girls, from trees to water buffalo. As a congregation during the past several years, we have paid for most of the animals that can be sent. One of the newer items available is irrigation pumps. They cost \$150 but can provide water to areas that usually have to transport the water by bucket. We only have to listen to the news of drought out west to get an idea of how bad it is in many places in Africa and elsewhere in the world. It is often the young girls who are tasked with carrying water and therefore cannot attend school. This perpetuates the poverty of the community.

As we celebrate the birth of the Water of Life, wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to help provide life giving water as well as a chance for girls to have the time to go to school? If you want to join in the effort, there are two methods to do so. First, bring a check to church or send

it to the church (100 N. Houston Rd., Warner Robins, GA 31093) made payable to First Christian Church and in the memo note indicate Heifer International. Second, send a check directly to Heifer International P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR, 72203-8058. You can even make gifts to Heifer in a friend or family member's name and Heifer will send a card acknowledging the gift.

There will be another opportunity to assist those facing hunger this year. The Society of St. Andrew, [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org), is recognized by our denomination and is partnered with the Week of Compassion. This program helps gather produce from participating farms by gleanings. Throughout the Bible there are passages encouraging farmers to not harvest the edges of the fields so that the needy can come and collect food for their families. This is what is done in the Society of St. Andrew. Partner farms allow volunteers to come and collect crops that have not been fully harvested and distribute that produce to food pantries and kitchens. The GA office is in Tifton with two other locations in Dahlongega and Albany. On the first Sunday of Advent, boxes will have been made available to collect change or bills to help in the work of ending hunger along with an Advent devotional booklet. Please pick one up and consider using both the booklet and the box.

While this is the last opportunity to share our gifts, it is by no means the least. Every year we collect a Christmas Offering that helps support the regional church in Georgia. New things are beginning to happen here and we need to be encouraged as a regional church. We also need to dedicate not only our resources but also our time and talents in the weeks and months ahead. The Christmas Offering is the first chance to get the ball rolling. The offering

will be collected on Dec. 14 and 21. Please support this region.

One last thing that should be a lot of fun, on Sunday, Dec. 21 everyone coming to church is encouraged to wear a Christmas shirt, sweater, and/or tie. Kick up the festive celebration of Christmas and have some fun on Christmas Sunday. You can also break out the wardrobe on Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. for the Christmas Eve service. Come to church and enjoy the fellowship and the joy of this time of year.

Shalom, *Darrell*

## DECEMBER ELDERS & DEACONS

Listed below are the Elders and Deacons scheduled to serve in December: Elders are Charlie Hebenstreit and Brenda McReynolds. The Deacons are Nicole Crofutt, Dawn McReynolds, Denny Ray McReynolds, and Dakota Crofutt.

## DISCIPLE WOMEN GRACE

The Grace Group met Thurs., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with 12 ladies present. Joys and concerns were shared, and we shared our thoughts and sadness over Winona having to leave on such short notice.

Our Bazaar, etc. went really well and we so appreciate all those who were so generous to help with putting away the chairs and getting things out of the shed and classrooms for us. That saved us so much time and effort in getting it all set up. We are right at \$1,000.00 or slightly over at this time.

We are in planning stages of a playground upgrade and will have more information next month as and a we move into Spring. We have had donations of \$500.00 for the project. If you would like to donate, see Sharon-Kay, or Brenda. Darrell delivered 15 cookbooks to the Augusta church, thanks to Rita Youngblood's connection to her former church. We still have cookbooks if you would like to purchase some for Christmas gifts. We have them available after church, or contact Jeannetta, Sharon-Kay or Brenda.

Our December service project is to provide stockings for the children at the Salvation Army Safe House.

Our Christmas party will be at Lois and Angela Crawford's home. It is at 6 pm on Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a finger food and join us. We will carpool from the Church at 5:45 pm.

Dawn presented a great program: "Five Ways to Glorify God while We Wait".

## LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

The Lunch Bunch met on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Those attending were Brenda & Denny McReynolds, Juanita Gunnin and Curtis & Nadine Scaggs. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Their next get together will be held at the Golden Corral on Dec.10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Come join us!

## DECEMBER SERMONS & SCRIPTURE




## KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Large trash bags      Paper towels  
Bathroom tissue      Spray kitchen cleaners  
13 gallon kitchen garbage bags  
Divided oblong foam plates

## SAFE HOUSE NEEDS

Paper towels      Bathroom tissue  
Trash bags      Kitchen cleaners  
Laundry soap & dish soap  
Laundry fabric softener

# December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	3 <i>Pam Palmer</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>Gavin Edmundson</i>	8 Board Meeting 7:00	9 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	10 Lunch Bunch 1:00 Golden Corral	11 <i>Jennifer Lamm</i>	12	13
14 <i>William Griffith</i>	15 <i>Margaret Hicks</i>	16 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00	17 <i>Ted Cook</i>	18 DW Grace's Christmas party. Carpool from church at 5:45 <i>Oliva Gowin</i>	19	20
21 Wear Christmas attire to Church	22	23 8:00 a.m. Cracker Barrel Bible Study 7:00 <i>Kyle McReynolds</i>	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm	26 		27
28	29	30	31 <i>Austin Hurlbert</i> <i>Haley Crofutt</i> <i>Hunter Hicks</i>	May Dec. 31st find you seated around the dinner table, together with your beloved family & cherished friends, ushering in the New Year ahead. May you wake up on Jan. 1st, finding that the world has not come to an end, the lights work, the water faucets flow & the sky has not fallen.		

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

## **With 4 weeks before Christmas,**

### **REMEMBER: JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA**

Santa lives at the North Pole. JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh. JESUS rides on the wind & walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year. JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies. JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited.

JESUS stands at your door & knocks. And then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa. JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap. JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl. What's your name?"

JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too.

He knows our history & future & He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly. JESUS has a heart full of love.

Santa says "You better not cry". JESUS says, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys.

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes & builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle, but JESUS gives you joy that is your strength,

While Santa puts gifts under your tree, JESUS became our gift & died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in Christmas. JESUS IS STILL THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

May the Lord Bless and watch over you and your loved ones this Christmas.

And may He prosper & bless the work of your hands in the New Year.

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