

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

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PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

There were 103 families that had their pictures taken for the new church pictorial directory. If you were unable to have your picture taken, please send a picture of yourself and your family to the church by Sunday, November 21st. Also, Gary Tyree will be available on Sunday, Nov. 14th, to take your picture for the directory. We hope to receive the directories by the first of the year. This will be a blessing for our church as families will become better acquainted with each other.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Moderator Gary Franklin has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 21st following morning worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the Nominating Committee reports, the proposed 2011 general budget, and any other new business.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The all-church Christmas dinner will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 5th. Please make your reservations on the envelope in your pew. After the dinner, members of the sanctuary choir will share some Christmas songs, and Hugh Henderson will lead us in a moment of preparation for our commitment to the church for 2011.

VETERAN'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Come and honor those who have served our country in a special worship service. On Thursday, Nov. 11th, at 7:00, we will gather in the sanctuary for a service of remembrance with the sound of a bugle, patriotic readings, prayer, and the lighting of memorial candles for the five branches of the armed services. The service will last thirty minutes and the nursery will be open. Invite a friend.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

To help you and the CYF

The CYF will once again take orders for those delicious Boston Butts on Sunday, November 14th. The Boston Butts will be delivered the week of November 15th. Also the CYF will be **selling** (not taking orders) of Boston Butts at the Inverness Vineyard Church at their Christmas Village on Saturday, November 20th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. In addition, they will also be selling olive wood products from the Holy Land and raffling off a large, hand carved Nativity set for \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be Sunday, December 12th after church. If you would like to purchase tickets for the Nativity raffle you may do so beginning on Sunday, November 28th – the First Sunday in Advent.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The education we choose reflects who we want to become. More and more, students who want to make a difference in the world, are choosing Disciples higher educational institutions. At the 21 theological institutions, universities, and colleges related to the Christian Church (DOC), students discover vast opportunities to educate the heart, mind and the soul. Your support of Disciples higher educational institutions through the Thanksgiving Special Offering makes a difference in the lives of the more than 26,000 students who choose a Disciples education. We will receive our Thanksgiving offerings on Sunday, November 14th and November 21st.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our church is joining in worship and fellowship with several other churches for a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 21st at 6:00 pm at the New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The church is located on Cahaba Valley Road. Please come and thank God with other friends of the faith for the wonderful blessings of life.

FROM THE ADVENTURE NOOK

The Adventure Nook's Fall Festival was a HUGE success! We had over 300 in attendance. Everyone enjoyed Chick-Fil-A sandwiches, Golden Flake chips, brownies, lemonade and tea. We appreciate all the wonderful donations for our Raffle. A special thanks to Amanda Boyles for assisting with the drawings. We would also like to thank Pastor Edd for setting up the Mummy Room. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Mary Pat for helping serve drinks. Our special event was enjoyed by all!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

At Christmas Joseph and Mary had to leave their home and travel to Bethlehem for the birth of the Christ Child. This year our Advent candles lighters will be families who left home to move to Alabama to celebrate Christmas over the years with their First Christian Church family. The schedule for the candle lighters are as follows:

Sunday, Nov. 28	David & Linda Hamilton
Sunday, Dec. 5	Brice & Peggy Thornbury
Sunday, Dec. 12	Barry & Susan Storer
Sunday, Dec. 19	Russ & Pat Favorite
Friday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm service	Clayton & Charlotte Brammer
11:00 pm service	Jose & Edith Carreras

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Christmas Poinsettia list is now in the narthex. The cost of the poinsettias this year is \$17.00. Please sign up and select a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one.

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FIRST CHRISTIAN VISITOR (UPS 0195-880) IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY EXCEPT A WEEK IN DECEMBER AND A WEEK IN JULY, BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH. **PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BIRMINGHAM, AL, 35203.** POSTMASTER PLEASE SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4954 VALLEYDALE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242.

Life In Our Community

Sunday, November 14

9:00 Sunday School
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
4:00 Pastor's Class
4:00 CYF Parents Meeting
4:30 Christmas Play Rehearsal
5:00 Chi Rho Progressive Dinner
5:00 Youth Groups
6:45 Snack Supper

Monday, November 15

7:00 Men's Bible Study on Malachi
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Mission Council

Tuesday, November 16

9:45 Chapel
10:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, November 17

6:30 Choir Practice
7:30 Cantata Practice

Thursday, November 18

7:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Men's Bible Study on John

GRACE NOTES

† To my family of God - Thank you so much for the thoughts, prayers, calls, visits, food and most of all, your love and concern for all of us. *Aneda Chandler & Family*

Exciting Enhancements to Children's Worship and Wonder!

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th, our **Jesus Doll** will become a part of this ministry. Each Sunday, one child in attendance will be given the opportunity to **take Jesus home with them for a week**. Jesus will spend the week sharing in the child's daily activities. A special diary will accompany Jesus. The child (with the help of parents or grandparents as needed) will write their experiences of sharing with Jesus in the diary. Jesus is to be returned to Worship and Wonder the following Sunday. The oldest child present on a Sunday, who has not taken Jesus home before, will be offered the opportunity each week. We will also be introducing some **Biblical puppets** throughout the year to be part of the wondering experience.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, November 14

**“Christian Apologetics – Church of Scientology”
Religion of the Stars**

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 73
WORSHIP 137**

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

In February, 1990, the youth groups hosted a Sweetheart Dinner in honor of Valentine's Day. Several of the men in the congregation helped the youth by grilling steaks on the patio. Dinner was served in three sittings by the fireplace in the Fireside Room. This was very successful and proceeds helped fund their various service projects and mission trips.

Drexel and Patty continued to host their "At Home with the Rankins" to become better acquainted with new members from the previous year with an evening of conversation, refreshments and fellowship.

March activities included reorganization of the Christian Men's Fellowship and the annual Fashion Show and luncheon sponsored by CWF. The Regional Assembly was held at our church with a reception hosted by CWF. The Monday Lunch Bunch continued to meet, often sharing lunch with TAN, and Sunday Sideboard at Hargis continued on the second Sunday of each month. Jim Brooks led the All Church Retreat at Hargis with the theme "Free from the Past, Free in the Present and Free for the Future". The Senior VIP group enjoyed an overnight trip to Montgomery to tour the Capitol and Governor's Mansion, attend a performance at the Shakespeare Festival Theatre and to tour Jasmine Hill Gardens in Wetumpka.

April Holy Week activities included a beautiful cantata, "A Symphony of Praise", presented by the choir on Palm Sunday. About 20 shoppers enjoyed a pre-Easter trip on the church bus to the outlet mall in Boaz. The Chain of Prayer began after the Maundy Thursday service and continued through Good Friday. Youth groups had a lock-in at Hargis on Saturday night and dyed eggs for the children's Easter egg hunt which followed the Sunrise Service and breakfast. Then everyone gathered for one worship service at church. A Children's Musical was held at the Sunday School hour on the last Sunday in April followed by a brunch, hosted by the youth groups as a fundraiser.

The church continued to grow with the addition of 22 new members in April. The Long Range Planning Committee resumed meeting to examine all phases of the church's present activities, to set goals for the next 5 years and to discuss ways to achieve those goals. Parking was sometimes a problem, and families were asked to try to come in only one car or perhaps to carpool with friends or neighbors until more parking spaces could be added.

CWF sponsored the annual Mother-Daughter banquet in May, and the men of the church did the cooking and serving. A closing celebration at the Retreat for all of the children and youth involved in Sunday evening programs was also held in May. Adults were invited too, and everyone enjoyed hayrides and a cookout to celebrate a very successful year of fellowship.

ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, Nov. 28	First Sunday of Advent Lighting of the Candles Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, Dec. 5	Second Sunday of Advent All-Church Christmas Dinner
Sunday, Dec. 12	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata "O Holy Night"
Sunday, Dec. 19	Christmas Sunday Holy Baptism Christmas Outreach Offering
Sunday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:
7:00	Contemporary Service with children sharing in worship "Aaron The Allergic Shepherd"
11:00	Traditional Service
Sunday, Dec. 25	Merry Christmas