

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 50 DECEMBER 21, 2010



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM YOUR STAFF

All of us as your church staff want to wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas. We celebrate the opportunity to serve you in the name of the One born in Bethlehem. Also, our deepest gratitude is expressed to members and friends for the wonderful Staff Christmas gift and all the other special gifts you have shared with us during this Holy season.

May the following prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson express our joy for you and the blessings of our Lord.

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

God Bless You and Merry Christmas.

Mary Pat	Edd	Jan
Cece	Chris	Beth
David	Lloyd	Layla
Christina	Jennifer	

COLLEGE RECOGNITION SUNDAY Sunday, December 26th

Traditionally, the last Sunday in December is set aside as College Recognition Sunday. It is a time that we recognize our college students and invite them to lead us in our worship service. We are blessed to have at First Christian, nineteen college young adults. This year Hannah Harms will share the sermon with other young adults serving as worship leaders. Come on this Sunday after Christmas as our college young adults lead us in the worship of the One born in Bethlehem.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN 2011

The following are some wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord at First Christian in 2011. Please choose one and notify Gary Franklin, Hugh Henderson, Edd or Mary Pat. All members of First Christian are encouraged to serve as a member of a Mission.

Worship Mission: Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services and special services such as Christmas and Easter.

Education Mission: Responsible for Sunday school of all ages, youth work and the total education program of the church.

Evangelism Mission: Responsible for bringing new members into the life of the church.

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Fellowship Mission: Responsible for providing a social life and fellowship activities for the church.

Administration Mission: Responsible for the financial program, maintenance of property and general administration policies for the church.

Outreach Mission: Responsible for giving to the needy within Birmingham and throughout the world.

Membership Mission: Responsible for care and nurturing of church members.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICES

On Christmas Eve we will have two worship services to celebrate the birth of Christ.

The first service is at 7:00 pm. It will be a contemporary service that will be family and child friendly. Our Kids Praise group will share a cute children's Christmas musical entitled "Aaron, The Allergic Shepherd" at the 7:00 pm service. They are excited to be able to present this as the Christmas Eve meditation this year. It tells the story of a little shepherd boy allergic to sheep and the lesson he learned on that special night so long ago when Emmanuel came to dwell among us. The kids are having a fun time getting ready for this Christmas Eve service; so come out and support them as we all worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the eve of His birth.

The second service will be a traditional service at 11:00 pm. This service will be more formal with a sermon and will be by candlelight.

Both services will have the worshippers walking forward to receive Communion. Also, they will both end with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. The nursery will be open for both services.

A GENEROUS LIFESTYLE

Webster's Dictionary defines the word lifestyle as "an individual's typical way of life". May our typical way of life be that of a generous lifestyle. Please be generous to the Lord and His church by sharing your financial resources. If you have not made your commitment to the Lord for 2011, Commitments cards are available in the narthex and the church office. Thank you for being a generous person.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The men that are meeting on Monday mornings at 7:00 am will begin a new Bible study on the book of Acts on Monday, January 3. From the Pentecostal fire in Jerusalem to a gospel proclamation in a Roman prison, the book of Acts shares the exciting story of God working to take the gospel message of salvation to the ends of the world. Come join seventeen men as we celebrate this remarkable book.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	71
WORSHIP	172

Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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Life In Our Community

Sunday, December 26

9:00 Sunday School
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
10:15 Worship Service -
College Recognition Sunday
10:30 Worship & Wonder
Monday, December 27

Office Closed

GRACE NOTES

- † We celebrate with Jenny Clausheide the birth of her daughter Karley Lanier.
- † Our prayers are with Connie Talbot who is with Hospice care in Gainesville, Florida. Connie is the mother of Conlee Alderson.
- † Our new Pictorial Directory will be available early next year. We are hoping to receive it in late January or early February.
- † Our sympathy is expressed to Charlie and Jennifer Powell in the loss of Grace Aderhold.
- † All Children are encouraged to bring their favorite toy to the church on Sunday for a blessing.
- † Claradel is taking a much needed break from writing an article about our church history. She will continue her wonderful messages on our history in the Visitor next year. Thank you Claradel for this wonderful ministry.
- † Teanna Cason accepted Christ as Savior and was baptized on Christmas Sunday, December 19. Reagan Everling will be baptized on Sunday, December 26. May God bless these two special children of God.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

We will receive our Christmas outreach offering this Sunday, December 26. This offering will go to support the ministries of the Regional Church in AI/NW Florida. These ministries include: our youth at summer camps, new churches being formed, CMF and CWF ministries, and the ministry of John Mobley, our Regional Minister. All our gifts for the offering will stay in Alabama and Northwest Florida.

ANCHORS AWEIGH!

Congratulations to Megan Alderson on acceptance into the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, and Officer Commission as Ensign. She will leave on March 5, 2011 for the Navy's Officer Development School in Newport, R.I. Upon graduation in early April, she will report for duty in San Diego, CA. Megan is a recent graduate of UAB with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is a Registered Nurse.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, December 26th
“Christian Apologetics”
Our Christian Faith

PLANNING FOR 2011?

As you plan for the New Year, consider making a resolution to finalize your personal end of life plans. Rather than leaving difficult decisions for your bereaved loved ones to handle, make your own wishes known ahead of time. Consider reserving a niche in the FCC Columbarium in our lovely outdoor worship center. Hopefully you had an opportunity to attend one of our recent memorial inurnment services to witness how special our end of life ministry is at FCC. To ask about our Columbarium and related end of life matters, please contact Jim or Ann Langley, Jim Baxter, or Clarissa Harms. Reservations for a niche in our Columbarium can be made with Cece in the church office.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE ADVENTURE NOOK

The Adventure Nook Preschool would like to say a special “Thank You” to all for making December a special month for our staff and children:

- Pastor Edd for taking our children on a special “Christmas Friends” walk on December 7th.
- Pastor Mary Pat for sharing the real meaning of Christmas with our parents and children on December 14th.
- Russ & Pat Favorite for entertaining our children by playing, Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus on December 14th. We have the cutest pictures!

We would like to thank you all for the support this past year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A GIFT FROM THE YOUNG AT HEART

The Young at Heart group in our church have shared a special gift with our shut-ins. They have given each home bound member and friend a lovely holiday candle. A candle that symbolizes the light of the world born in Bethlehem.

May the following thought that our Young at Hearts shared with our shut-ins through the gift of the candles, also be a blessing of light for our holiday season.

It is my sweetest comfort Lord
And will ever be.
To look upon Your holy light
For all humanity.

Forever God, forever more
My Jesus shall endure:
With light upon Him.
My hope remains Eternally secure.

Your Young at Heart at
First Christian Church
Bring you Dear Friend
Love of light to celebrate our
Savior's birth.