

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 21 MAY 24, 2011



MEMORIAL SUNDAY

Every Memorial Sunday we light candles remembering those who have given to be with the Lord. On Sunday, May 29, we will light a candle for the following members of First Christian Church who have died since last Memorial Day. We will light a candle for Jeff Garner and Gail Burton.

We will also light a candle for family members and friends that are not members of our church, and we will light a candle for all the Men and Women who have died serving our country.

FIFTH SUNDAY POT LUCK

Next Sunday, May 29 is our Fifth Sunday Pot Luck after morning worship. We always look forward to this great day of fellowship and food. Please bring your favorite dish to church. The church will provide drinks, paper products, and tableware.

THE YOUNG AT HEART

Moonlight and Magnolias, a hilarious comedy about how the greatest movie ever made almost wasn't. You don't want to miss this outing on May 28th (a Saturday afternoon matinee). Sign up in the narthex, get all the details and be ready for a fun bus trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery. Frankly, my dear, this is some funny play. *Janet*

CYF TO BE COMMISSIONED TO THE HOLY LAND Sunday, May 29

On Sunday, May 29, during morning worship, six youth and two adult sponsors will be commissioned to their mission trip to the Holy Land. They will represent our church, themselves and, more importantly Jesus Christ as they meet the living stones and hear their stories in Bethlehem and Jerusalem and Nazareth. We hope that you will come and help commission these outstanding young people. Thank you as always for your love and support. As a thank you for all your support, they will be sponsoring a pancake lunch after church sometime this summer, as their way of saying "thank you" to their home congregation. At this lunch they will also find creative ways to share their stories and experiences.

CYF HOLY LAND TRIP June 3-15, 2011

The CYF and their sponsors will depart from Atlanta and fly directly to Tel Aviv. They have planned for this trip for over two years. They have worked hard for their money to pay for the trip by selling everything from olive wood products to Boston butts, working charity sales, and cooking and serving Regional Events and much more. All in all, it has been their faith that has led them and sustained them. They are more than excited; ask any of them and they will tell you exactly how many days, hours and minutes until we leave. This will be an experiential mission trip where the youth will experience the Holy sites and reflect on the events which happened there. They will not only visit the sites they have studied this past year, but they will have opportunities to draw, paint or

write about their experiences as they happen. They will spend two nights in Nazareth, and one night in the desert in a Bedouin tent with a camel ride the next morning and the remainder of their nights will be in the homes of Christian Palestinians in Bethlehem. While in Bethlehem they will do three and a half days of mission work at places like a refugee camp, working with children in orphanages and senior citizens. They will also take a ride on the Galilee, visit Capernaum, canoe up the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John, visit the fortress of Masada, the Oumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and even float in the Dead Sea. They will visit the site of the Mt. of the Beatitudes, visit the Church of the Nativity where Jesus was born and the near by shepherd's fields. In addition, while they are in Jerusalem they will worship in the Upper Room on Pentecost Sunday, walk the Via Dolorosa, visit the Wailing Wall, and the church of the Holy Sepulcher, the pools of Bethesda and St. Anne's Church and the Mount of Olives. They will also make time to meet with an Israeli and Palestinian Peace Movement, have a picnic with youth their age from the Lutheran church in Bethlehem. They will visit the Monastery of St. Saba and visit the Judean wilderness. These are just some of the places, and sites and people they will experience. Each night they will conclude with worship presented by one of the youth. The youth each have at least one additional responsibility for the trip like the group journalist, photographer, hospitality/thank you notes, checker and counter, spokesperson and gift bearer, and blessings and devotions. If you would like to keep up with us during our trip you may do so by following our Blog which we will set up. The information will be in next week's Visitor. Please know that we appreciate our home church and ask for your continued support and prayers while we are gone. How marvelous it is to know that these youth choose to walk where Jesus walked and to exercise their faith in Him. The following will depart for Israel/Palestine on June 3 and return June 15. They are:

Gayla Corbin, Alyssa Lamb, Katherine Mee, Elizabeth Miller, Jacob Thigpen, Soren Reitsma, Donnette Mee and Mary Pat Spencer.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Make up Training Day June 22 at 6:30 pm

On Wednesday, June 22 we will have a make up training session at 6:30 pm in the Farkas Room. This session will be for those who could not make our first training session. We will also have a sitter for those with children. Please place this date on your calendar as it is important that we understand the theme and exactly what we will be doing. Thank you all so much for saying "Yes" to this important ministry. See you on June 22.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| WORSHIP SERVICE | 140 |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | 74 |

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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 This Week

Sunday, May 29

9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service – CYF
Commissioned to the Holy Land
10:30 Worship & Wonder
11:30 Fifth Sunday Pot Luck

Monday, May 30

MEMORIAL DAY

Office Closed

7:00 Men's Bible Study
Tuesday, May 31
10:00 Women's Bible Study
6:30 Pastor's Cabinet

Thursday, June 2

7:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Advocates Bible Study

Friday, June 3

CYF depart for their Mission Trip to the Holy Land

GRACE NOTES

- † Our prayers are with Linda Hamilton, and Linda Cullum who are home recovering from surgery.
- † Our prayers are with Gordon Goodall who is in Baptist Montclair.
- † Our prayers continue to be with Carole Rudd, and Marquita Sebastian.
- † Last call for registration for summer camp. Remember that the church will pay for half of the camp fees. Contact the church for your registration form.
- † Please contact Chris if you would like to help as a volunteer in the church office.
- † First Christian continues to serve as an Area Collection Center for donations for tornado relief. Please bring your donations to the church between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm any day during the week.
- † Every Sunday through June 12 the hymn of praise is Step By Step. This hymn is symbolic of Edd's hike as he makes it step by step through the mountains.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library ladies are sorting through books and passing on those that are dated or have not been used/checked out in many, many years. We invite you to take any books that may interest you or pass on to someone you know. The book cart will be located in the narthex on Sunday mornings. Please know members are **always** invited in our library. Although Worship & Wonder leaders are preparing for their lessons after Sunday school, please feel free to check out books, especially the NEW BOOKS located on the left lower shelf next to the door. Our church library is always OPEN!!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 25-29

Our VBS will be July 25-29, from 9:30-11:30. Our VBS will be for children age 4 through those who have completed the 6th grade. There is no fee for this VBS; however, we are inviting all children to bring canned goods for Oak Mountain Ministries as part of our Mission Project. Our theme this year is, "Galactic Blast". It is a space theme where we will explore and praise God's magnificent creation. We have a fantastic staff lined up as well as a very special guest named Galileo the Green Gorilla. So mark your calendars and invite your neighbors and friends. We already have some 15 pre-registrations. Please know that we encourage you to pick up registration forms to share with family and friends. The orange forms are in our narthex. Please fill them out and return them soon. Thank you!

CAMP HIGH HOPES

It is only one month until Camp High Hopes. In all the hustle and bustle of our outreach for the tornado victims, please remember those who need us on a continuing basis. These special needs adults are a part of First Christian Church tradition. They are part of our family. This year, we will be conducting camp on a different schedule. We will start the camp at 5:00 pm on Friday, June 3. Gerald will cook ribs and turkey, which we will be serving with all the fixings, around 6:00 pm. Campers will be checked in between 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm as time permits. At 7:30 pm, we will have our Camp High Hopes live band playing dance music. We will need a crew of about 10 to 15 counselors to check in campers, to chaperon the dance, and to get the campers to bed. On Saturday June 4, we will have a full day of activities, starting with breakfast at 8:00 am and ending between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm. We will need a full complement of counselors for Saturday to ensure camper safety. Please consider Camp High Hopes as your opportunity for personal outreach. Contact Jim Langley at 980-1827 to sign up.

H.O.T.C.

One of those hard to understand, government acronyms? Not hardly. This is our very own HANDS OF THE CARPENTER and we are here to serve. So, if you or someone you know needs help, transportation, lifting, moving stuff or just a helping hand, call Jerry Wallace at 991-0553.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, May 29th

“Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians”

I Thessalonians 4

“THE DISCIPLES”

Sunday, May 29th

John's Vision of Worship

“Tree of Life”

Revelation 22: 1-9