



First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

[visit us at : www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org) or call us at: 991-5000

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 45 NOVEMBER 15, 2011

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Jesus was a hiker. He covered most of His homeland on foot. He climbed mountains, walked through valleys and traveled on roads through small villages and towns.

How Jesus must have been able to cover a lot of ground! Yet He could stop to help a blind beggar. He could slow down to bless the little children. He would adjust His pace to walk with the slow, the crippled, or the young.

Jesus should be an example to the rest of us. Even though we too have a lot of ground to cover before we rest, we can slow down for the sake of those we meet.

We celebrate that members and friends of First Christian are slowing down to help others - stopping to help those in need such as Koats4kidz, The Owens House, Tornado Relief, A Mission Station, Week of Compassion, Disciple Mission fund offering for the needy of the world, food pantry, Classroom Readers, Hands of the Carpenter, special offering, Backpack Buddies, Blessing Boxes, Strong Kids, Camp High Hopes, local outreach for families with great needs and so many more ministries of love.

We celebrate that we follow in the footsteps of the Son of God who walked the busy dusty roads of Palestine and stopped to help those in need. May we all continue to slow down and love others.

God Bless you, Edd & Mary Pat

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The All-Church Christmas Dinner will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 4. The cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 5 – 10 years old, and children under 5 are free. The menu for this wonderful meal is: barbeque pork and barbeque chicken, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, bread, banana pudding, tea, and lemonade. Please make your reservation on the envelope in your pew. Invite a friend for this great moment of fellowship with your church family during this holy season.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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

CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF

Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent, we will have a decorated Christmas box in the narthex for you to place your gift for the staff of First Christian. Please note on your check that it is a gift for the church staff. You may also mail your gift to the church in care of Steve Pasky. Please remember our staff and all the many extras that they have done for us this year. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate their ministry to us. *Thank you, Steve Pasky, Chair of the Personnel Committee*

THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The Thanksgiving offering benefits the colleges, universities, seminaries, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve. Your support provides scholarships, church relations programs, and chaplaincy offices. **Most importantly, your support of the 2011 Thanksgiving offering helps Disciples raise up servant leaders! We will receive the Thanksgiving offering on Sunday, November 20 and 27.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Moderator, Hugh Henderson has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 4 following morning worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the nominating committee reports, the proposed 2012 general budget, and any other new business.

ADVENT WORSHIP

- Sunday, November 27 – First Sunday of Advent
Lighting of The Candles
Hanging of The Greens
- Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent
All-Church Christmas Dinner
Congregational Meeting
- Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata “Lead Me Back To Bethlehem”
- Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Baptism
Christian Outreach Offering
- Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:
7:00 Contemporary Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship
- Sunday, December 25 Christmas Sunday
Worship at 9:00 am

Please note that on Christmas Sunday there will be no Sunday school, or Worship and Wonder. Worship will begin at 9:00 am.

The Children participating in the “Praise Kids’ singing in church this Sunday, please meet in the sanctuary at 9:00 am to practise one last time before we sing in worship. *Thank you. Jan*

THE DISCIPLES
Sunday, November 20th
Praying As God's People
Matthew 6: 5-15

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSONS
Sunday, November 20th
Those Whom Thou Have Given Me
John 17:9

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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, November 20

9:00 Sunday School
9:45-10:15 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
3:00 Bell Choir
4:00 Pastor's Class
5:00 Praise Kids/Children & Youth Groups
6:15 Snack Supper

Monday - Thursday

9:30 – 1:30 The Adventure Nook Preschool

Monday, November 21

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

Tuesday, November 22

9:45 The Adventure Nook Chapel
12:00 Adventure Nook Thanksgiving Feast
10:00 Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 23

6:30 Choir Practice
7:30 Cantata Practice

Thursday, November 24 – Friday, November 25

Thanksgiving - Office Closed

Saturday, December 26

10:00 Decorate the church for Advent

GRACE NOTES

- ⤴ Our prayers are with Carol Dutt, Nancy Hubner, and Jim Garner
- ⤴ To my church family and friends, thank you for your prayers, concerns, and cards during my recent surgeries and recuperation. Sincerely, Luci Colee.
- ⤴ This year our new members will light the Advent Candles.
- ⤴ Our congratulations to Bill Watts who was elected as Chairman of the Alabama Real Estate Commission.
- ⤴ Libby and Barbara Carpenter flew out to Kansas to visit with Wanda Swihart. We miss Wanda and hope she comes back to Birmingham for a visit.
- ⤴ There was joy in the Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study as Janet Clark was present.
- ⤴ Edd and Brice Thornbury made pastoral and hospital calls together.
- ⤴ It is a blessing to have Susan Storer's father, George and step mother, Edna visiting our church from England.
- ⤴ Circle your calendar for Sunday, December 11, for the Christmas Cantata.
- ⤴ We welcome Bill Qualls, who comes by transfer of membership.
- ⤴ Jim Clifford has been preaching at First Christian in Anniston. This Sunday will end Jim's four weeks of preaching at the church.
- ⤴ The men of the Monday morning Bible Study begin studying the great book of Ephesians on Monday, November 14. Come join them. There is always room.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

The Christian Education Mission offered six weeks of summer fun beginning Sunday, July 3, 2005. The morning began with the CYF Coffee Cafe, a fundraiser for the 2006 mission trip. Everyone gathered in the Family Life Center for coffee, juice, fellowship and Bible trivia. The children then enjoyed crafts and Bible games. A new non-traditional class was offered for youth and adults around the cafe tables, and a more traditional, Bible-based class met in the Farkas room. Both classes had special topics and speakers each Sunday.

Once again 38 volunteers ministered to the children of Andros Island, sharing their faith through song, scripture and laughter. Children received goody bags, t-shirts, candy, snacks, fresh fruit, toys and school supplies. Others on the island were also given bags filled with needed items. Children received lunch each day during Vacation Bible School.

Everyone enjoyed an ice cream social on August 31 followed by a worship Service of Lights in the sanctuary. This service focused on the new lights, installed by Nickey Rudd, which shine through our beautiful windows at night. In September our church responded to the terrible tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. We immediately began collecting toiletries, water, toys and children's books. Several members offered housing; some sold their Auburn/Alabama football tickets and gave the money to hurricane relief. Some children pledged their allowance for the relief effort. We waited for contact with our Disciples churches on the Gulf Coast, and we prayed. We prayed for the brave individuals serving as rescue workers, for the families who lost loved ones in the hurricane and floods, for those who managed to survive. We knew this would be a long term relief effort, so we waited to find out how we could be of help. An incredible outpouring of contributions to Week of Compassion helped provide temporary shelter, food and pastoral care to thousands of displaced persons. Church World Service deployed a great number of disaster response teams to help coordinate local interfaith relief and recovery efforts in the midst of the most trying and difficult circumstances. On Sunday, September 11, we gave more than \$7500 to Week of Compassion for hurricane relief.

In October, the CYF and Chi Rho youth sponsored a community-wide garage sale and, in November, the annual Cajun Festival, both fundraisers for summer mission trips. Three new Bible studies were offered from October to early December. Janet Clark led a women's study, and Edd led a men's study on Monday mornings and one for all adults on Sunday evenings.

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE 141
SUNDAY SCHOOL 81

⤴ If you would like to be listed on the Prayer Chain, please contact Claradel Holcombe at 822-5645 or e-mail her at: claradelcsh@aol.com