



## 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 4 NUMBER 15 APRIL 10, 2012**

### A WORD FROM YOUR PASTORS

Spring is here and gardens are flourishing everywhere. What if we looked at ourselves as a garden. There would be good plants and weeds in our garden, in our lives. The good plants and the weeds need to be dealt with. So our Lord comes to the garden of our lives with the desire to kill the weeds, just as He desires to remove the sins from our lives. He also desires to prune the good plants within our gardens, not because He wants to hurt us, but simply because He wants to make more room for His good fruit to be produced within our lives.

So in this season of flourishing gardens may we be open to the Great Gardner coming into our lives. Let us find pleasure in presenting our lives to the Lord and let us pray that our Lord will come and do the work of gardening that He needs to do within us. To do His work within us to that He may be glorified! *God bless you, Edd & Mary Pat.*

### A WALK ON CHEAHA

**Saturday, April 14 at 9:00 am**

Come Saturday at 9:00 am on April 14, and take a walk on Cheaha Mountain. Cheaha is the highest mountain in the state. On top we will celebrate the beauty of the earth. Bring a day pack with your lunch and water.

### DISTRICT II GATHERING

A gathering of the Christian Churches in central Alabama will be Sunday, April 15 at 4:00 pm at Jeffries Memorial Christian Church. The theme is Earth Day and Stewardship of the Earth. Edd will share the Communion message. We hope to have a bus load attending the District Meeting. Please sign up in the narthex.

### 2012 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members and friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida will gather in celebration at the New Hope Christian Church in Letohatchee, on April 27-29. The theme of the assembly is “For God So Loved The World” (John 3:16).

This is an opportunity for the Christian Church throughout Alabama-Northwest Florida to lift up all the different ministries that we accomplish together for the Lord. Speakers will include Rev. Bruce Barkhauer who serves as the minister of Faith and Giving for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He will encourage us to celebrate the abundance of God's gifts. Another speaker, Rev. Dr. Pablo Jimenez, serves as the Senior Pastor of the Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) in Espinosa, Dorado, Puerto Rico will share with us “Preparing God's Fiesta: From Survival to Celebration”. Finally, Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, who serves as a church planter in North Carolina, will share about church growth.

Assembly reservation forms for lodging, food and assembly materials are available on the table in the narthex. Please contact Edd or Mary Pat if you are able to attend.

### THE CARLY FUND

For more than a year, we have prayed for Carly Chandler, Dronnie and Aneda's granddaughter. Carly's condition has recently been diagnosed as CDKL5 (for information see <http://www.cdkl5.com>), which is a very rare genetic disorder that results in severe neuro-developmental impairment. Her condition requires many doctor visits, medical tests, hospital stays, special therapies and equipment, and special formula, among other expenses. Recently, Carly's mother has been diagnosed with MS. To assist this young family with their overwhelming burden, we are establishing The Carly Fund. The fund will be ongoing to assist with the persistent expenses of caring for this special child of God. Please designate The Carly Fund on your donations. *Thank you, Charlotte Brammer, Chair-Outreach Mission.*

### CROP WALK: Let's help end world hunger!

On April 29, Sharon Orazine will again lead First Christian in the CROP Walk. Edd, Clayton, and Charlotte Brammer will join her. Why? Because each day, 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes— that's one child every 5 seconds. While hunger in the US is less severe than it is in many other parts of the world, it exists here. Approximately 36.2 million people, including many children, live in a perpetual state of food insecurity: they literally do not know **where** their next meal will come from or even **when** they will be able to eat. How can you help? You can support Sharon, Edd, Clayton, or Charlotte by donating to help feed others. As much as 30% of monies raised will be used to feed local people. You can also sign up to walk! For more information, visit <http://www.churchworldservice.org>.

### PRAISE KIDS MUSICAL

The Praise Kids would like to invite you to their children's musical, "God Of This City", on April 29th during the 10:15 worship service. It's the story of a group of kids that helped save a homeless shelter in their city. The Praise Kids are excited to share their faith with you and bring the message during this special Sunday morning worship.

### ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION'S YOUNG ADULT CABINET Sunday, April 15

During worship on Sunday, April 15, members of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region's Young Adult Cabinet will be with us in worship. We will provide an opportunity for them to share with us briefly regarding the importance of the church's ministries to and with young adults. Following worship the Young Adult Cabinet members will facilitate a conversation in the Fireside Room with our young adults and other interested parties about ways to strengthen young adult ministry. Refreshments will be served.

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### SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE	232
EASTER SUNRISE	74
SUNDAY SCHOOL	53

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### **Life In Our Community This Week**

#### **Sunday, April 15**

9:00 Sunday School  
9:45 Fellowship Moment  
10:15 Worship Service  
10:30 Worship & Wonder  
11:15 A Moment of Prayer with Elders  
11:30 Ona-Ruth at Janice Lamb's  
5:00 Children/Chi-Rho/Praise Kids  
6:15 Snack Supper

#### **Monday - Thursday**

9:30 -1:30 The Adventure Nook Preschool

#### **Monday, April 16**

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

#### **Tuesday, April 17**

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

#### **Wednesday, April 18**

6:30 Choir Practice

#### **Thursday, April 19**

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

### **GRACE NOTES**

- ⤴ Our sympathy is extended to Cara and Mark Adams in the loss of Mark's father, David Anthony.
- ⤴ Our sympathy is extended to George and Judy Dudley in the loss of their brother-in-law, Lothrop Smith.
- ⤴ Our prayers are with John Hard's son-in-law, Russell Lewis, who has leukemia.
- ⤴ Our prayers are with Pat Favorite, resting at home from surgery.
- ⤴ Gratitude is expressed to all of the members and friends of our church who participated in the Lenten and Easter Worship Service. They were a blessing for our church.
- ⤴ Mission Council is Monday, April 16 at 6:30pm in the Farkas Room. This is an important meeting as we make decisions on the revision of our Church Constitution and Bylaws.
- ⤴ Our Christian joy is with Anna Eady, Luke and Darren Williamson who were baptized in morning worship on Easter.
- ⤴ Thank you Mack Carpenter and volunteers, for the wonderful meals at the Lenten Dinners. Our next meal together will be the Fifth Sunday Pot Luck on Sunday, April 29.

### **CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED**

In November, 2009, Young at Heart made a trip to Sylacauga to lunch at Artena Marie's Cafe and then tour the Blue Bell ice cream factory. After the interesting tour, we enjoyed choosing our favorite flavor while relaxing in the ice cream parlor.

Our youth had the joy of lighting the candles during the Advent season with Ayana Crosby, Alyssa Lamb, Jacob Thigpen, Emma Harms, Cayla Corbin, Jenny Parkko, Tyler Good, Katharine Mee, Morgan Natale and Corey Tabb participating in this tradition. Our CYF youth once again asked us to help them "Spread the Light of Christ" during this holy season by donating \$5.00 in honor or memory of someone who had touched our lives.

A new church website went live on December 12, thanks to webmasters Nick Cotruvo, Charles Daniels and Jeff Eady. The new site is user friendly and very functional and will be a wonderful tool for bringing together all ministries of the church. Check out the site at [www.fcc-bhm.org](http://www.fcc-bhm.org).

A beautiful cantata celebrating the miracle of Christ's birth was presented by the Chancel Choir during morning worship on the second Sunday of December. Following worship everyone enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner in the Family Life Center. The year ended with the two beautiful Christmas Eve worship services and with College Recognition on the last Sunday of the year.

Our Chi Rho and CYF youth attended a youth conference called "Resurrection" during the MLK weekend in January, 2010. This was an experience where the gospel was proclaimed and where youth learned how to have a closer walk with Christ. This event in Gatlinburg was sponsored by the United Methodist Church. Our young people were the first to travel on the new church bus.

Later that month the Elder Retreat was held at Lake Guntersville State Park. This was a time to focus on the beauty of God's creation and a time of spiritual renewal. The Retreat coincided with Eagle Awareness Weekend at Guntersville, so everyone hoped to spot an eagle.

Mary Decker announced her retirement as Nursery Coordinator after 20 years of loving service with our church. We recognized Mary during morning worship on the last Sunday in January, and she was presented a love gift in appreciation of her many years of service. Everyone had an opportunity to greet her personally and to thank her at the 5th Sunday potluck lunch after church.

The Nicholson family gave two beautiful granite benches for the Memorial Garden in memory of their beloved Leo. The benches offered a quiet place to rest in the peaceful serenity of the outdoor worship center and the beautiful Columbarium wall.

**CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON**

**Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**A Study of Peter's Letters**

**THE DISCIPLES**  
**Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Cleansing the Temple**  
**John 2: 13-22**