



First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

visit us at : www.fcc-bhm.org or call us at: 991-5000

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THANK YOU

“For everything there is a season”. You, dear friends, have shared in our season of illness and recovery, our time of physical weakness and spiritual need. We truly learned the meaning of “family” as, one by one, you each dropped by, phoned, cooked, prayed and supported us in innumerable ways.

You nurtured us body, soul, and spirit. We literally do not know what we would have done without this amazing, caring church.

What a privilege to see all of you walking out your faith by being Jesus to us. We love you and cherish your friendship. “Thank you” is not nearly enough. Bless you all. *Bud & Georgia Flora*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “GO DEEP WITH GOD”

July 23 - 27

First Christian Church invites all children ages 4-through those who have just completed the 5th grade. Get ready to dive into fun at our Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God. We will explore and experience God's underwater universe at VBS! The fun begins on Monday, July 23 at 9:30 until 11:30. If you haven't pre-registered then you will need to get here by 9:00. There is a registration fee of \$15 for the first child and \$10 for the second. You can bring your friends and neighbors too. We will also have our mission outreach project to bring canned goods for our friends at Oak Mountain Ministries. Our adventures include regular Deep Sea voyages into Bible fun and creative crafts and lots of recreation. We will have water science and great music and we will of course have snacks at our Divers Diner. You will want to come and meet our Dive Chief and her special friend Ocho the Octopus. So come and be a part of all the excitement at Operation Overboard . See you there. Don't forget to pre-register; forms can be found in our narthex.

“LOVING WELL” LADIES SUMMER RETREAT

Please note: “The Living Well” Ladies Summer Retreat, has been changed to a four-session summer study. This study will begin on Tuesday, June 26, at 10:00 am in the Ann Gandy Room, room #106, and will continue for four Tuesday's. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$15.00 to cover materials.

Janet Clark.

A PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY

Almighty God, thank You for the men who cuddled and played with us, and so helped us learn what Your joyous love is like. Thank You for the trustworthy men who taught us about Your faithfulness. Thank You for the men who wouldn't let us stop with crawling when they knew we could run. Thank You for men who showed us that gentleness is the proof of real strength. Amen.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASSES

Aug 12th- Oct 7th

Romans 13:8 "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law." If you are looking for a plan for handling your resources, God's way that encompasses spending, saving, and giving, than please join us. Our church will be hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University this August. There will be all-new curriculum that has never been offered before. In nine action-packed lessons, you'll learn how to beat debt, build wealth, find bargains, invest for the future, give like never before, and much more! This information will change your life. The current Financial Peace University classes meet for two hours each week for 13 weeks, during which time the average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700. With the new curriculum, the time has been cut down to nine sessions to get you started even faster down the path to "live like no one else". We will have an informational meeting on July 15, after church. If you have any questions, Please see Tiffany Horne.

MISSION COUNCIL

Monday, June 18 at 6:30 pm

All Mission Council members are encouraged to attend the Mission Council meeting on Monday, June 18, at 6:30 pm. A quorum is needed as we approve the Revisions of the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

FATHER'S DAY

This Sunday we will celebrate Fathers Day in worship. The children will share Hershey candy kisses with all fathers and Edd will preach a service on The Lord's Prayer lifting up Our Father in Heaven.

BLESSING OF THE PETS

Sunday, June 24 at 5:30 pm

One June 24, we will have a worship service in the prayer garden at 5:30 pm with a Blessing of the Pets and a memorial for our pets that we have lost. Bring your family pet, on a leash or in a cage please, and join us for this service. The Fellowship Mission will be serving ice cream and cookies after the service.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, June 17th

A Study of Peter's Letters

THE DISCIPLES

Sunday, June 17th

Celebrate Jubilee

Leviticus 25:8-12, 25,35-36, 39-40, 47-48,55

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP SERVICE 126

SUNDAY SCHOOL 56

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4954 VALLEYDALE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242.

Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, June 17

Father's Day

9:00 Sunday School
9:45 Fellowship Moment
10:15 Worship Service –
Celebrating Fathers
10:30 Worship & Wonder
11:15 A Moment of Prayer with Elders

Monday, June 18

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

Tuesday, June 19

9:30 – 1:00 TAN Summer Fun
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, June 20

9:30 – 1:00 TAN Summer Fun
6:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, June 21

9:30 – 1:00 TAN Summer Fun
7:00 Advocates Bible Study

Saturday, June 23

10:30 Caring and Sharing Pool Party
at Marian Moon's

Saturday, June 23 – Monday, June 25

Discovery Camp 2nd & 3rd Grade

Next Sunday, June 24

11:15 – 4:00 Worship and Wonder Training
Library and Farkas room
5:30 Blessing of the Pets

GRACE NOTES

- ✧ Our prayers are with Carol Dutt and Judy Powers.
- ✧ Dear FCC family, Words are completely inadequate to express our gratitude to each of you. You helped us raise our Laura from a curious, fun-living child to a strong, compassionate young woman whose Christian values and intellect equipped her to make a difference in our world. We are grateful beyond measure for your prayers, loving support and the generosity with which you have sustained us after her death. Thank you for providing such bounteous nourishment for all who came to celebrate Laura's short life....and for healing our broken hearts with your steadfast love. You are a blessing to us. Jim and Ann Langley
- ✧ Dear First Christian Church, This church has helped me grow into the young Christian woman I am today. I would like to thank you for the graduation gift. The seniors will miss the church so much. But we will see you all when we are back in town. So there's no need to miss us too much! With much love. Katherine Mee.

GRACE NOTES CONTINUED

- ✧ Dear First Christian, Thank you all, so much. We are praying for you all. God bless! Christ cares! Love Levi Conn.
- ✧ Congratulations to Dr. Michael West and Mrs. Elizabeth Davis West on their recent marriage on My 26. Michael is the son of Shane and Jenny West.
- ✧ We congratulate Zachary Wilson, who graduated from Auburn in aerospace engineering. He is a member of First Christian in Huntsville, AL. Zachary's grandparents are Boyce & Virginia Guthrie.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

In June, 2011, we opened our doors as a mission station for up to 20 volunteers. They would be working with Hands on Birmingham, the Red Cross and other organizations. We continued to collect needed items for tornado victims and also toys, books and games for children who lost so much in the April storms.

The Sacred Harp Convention met at our church for the fourth year, and Hubert Nall invited the congregation to participate. We welcomed hundreds of singers and guests each day as they gathered in the sanctuary praising God with their special music. Jim Langley directed another successful Camp High Hopes with 35 campers and about 30 volunteers. Nurse Sharon Orazine had a group of women from the Lovelady Center assisting with camp. Campers enjoyed dancing, fishing, canoeing, crafts, Kathy Mann's puppet ministry, bingo, swimming and the always popular motorcycle rides with the Christian Motorcycle Association.

Edd left for his sabbatical, hiking the Appalachian Trail, on June 15. He looked forward to hiking in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts for two months. Our prayers were with him as he renewed his spirit and refreshed his soul in God's beautiful mountains.

On the last Sunday of June the youth who traveled to the Holy Land shared photos of their amazing experience at a potluck luncheon after church. They also had a table of the foods they enjoyed on their trip and a display of the souvenirs they acquired. On August 21 they will bring the morning message and share in detail more of their faith journey and how it touched their lives.

The Christian Comrades, Insighters and other adult Sunday School classes formed a partnership with Inverness and Oak Mountain Elementary Schools. They helped the school staffs meet the needs of less fortunate students and their families.

Vacation Bible School was held the last week of July with the theme, "Galactic Blast". Children age 4 through 6th grade became space cadets and enjoyed Cosmic Crafts, Good News Galaxy with Bible stories and sign language, and Orbital Observatory where they carried out science experiments.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTORS

Often we fail to recognize the power of our speech, our language, the words we use. The Apostle Paul said, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

During these vacation days of summer, let us all take some time to reflect upon our language, upon words that hurt and words that heal. Let us use words that are gracious and a means of grace to those who hear them.

"I like the following anonymous writing that helps us share the words of grace to others.

I love You not only for what You have made of Yourself, but what You are making of me.

I love You for putting Your hands into my heaped up heart and passing over all the foolish, weak things that You can't help dimly seeing there, and drawing out into the light all the beautiful things that no one else had looked for.

I love You because You are helping me to make of the lumber of my life not a tavern, but a temple, out of the words of my every day not a reproach, but a song."

Now those are wonderful words from the heart. Let's share them!

God bless you, Edd and Mary Pat