

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
Sunday, December 30, 2012

PRELUDE "Greensleeves" Arr. by Snyder

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Luke Williamson & Teanna Cason

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Jay Barkley

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** Jay Barkley

Leader: We thank You, Lord, for the privilege of seeing another new year,
People: For in You we live and move and have our being,
Leader: We thank You, Lord, for the many good things we have received and experienced during the year that is past.
People: For You have anointed our heads with oil and our cups overflow.
Leader: We thank You, Lord, that even amid sorrows and difficulties, You were with us,
People: For You led us beside still waters and restored our souls.
Leader: Now as we look to the future, make us sensitive to the limited time we have on this earth,
People: Teaching us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Leader: May we have the grace to leave behind the guilt, the hurts, the bad memories and the burdens of the past,
People: Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead...So that we may be free to pursue the one goal that is worthy of the one lifetime You have given us,
Leader: Pressing on toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
People: We pray, Lord, that we may not be impelled to make nervous efforts to predict what will come, dabbling in those secrets which are Yours alone,
Leader: For the hidden things belong to God.
People: Rather, may we grasp enthusiastically the challenges of each new day, and make we faithfully perform the tasks You have set before us,
Leader: For that which is revealed belongs to us and to our children.
People: And grant, Lord, that as we plunge into the unknown, we will have with us a sense of Your presence and Your power,
All: For it is the Lord, who goes before us; He will not fail us or forsake us; we will not fear or be discouraged.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE** "Go Tell It On The Mountain" Red Hymnal No.167

*** INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Trespass) and GLORIA PATRI**
(Words to the Lord's Prayer, Gloria Patri and Doxology are in the pews)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Allison Mirabito
Children who are rising four years old through fourth grade will be dismissed to Children's Worship & Wonder.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, and OFFERINGS
Call to Stewardship Evan Alderson **Special Music Offering** "We Three Kings" Perry
Michelle Bohan-Brown, Clarinet
Andrew Brown, Percussion
Twila Tyree, Piano

***Doxology**
***Prayer of Dedication** Evan Alderson

ANTHEM "Lovely Star in the Sky" Twila Tyree

PASTORAL PRAYER Lori Morrow

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Communion Hymn "We Three Kings" Red Hymnal No. 172
Invitation to Communion Hannah Harms **Prayer of Communion**
(This is the Lord's Table. All believers in Christ are invited. As the emblems are passed, partake of the bread and hold the cup, offering your own prayer/meditation until after the congregational response.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:
(Taken from the New Testament: First Corinthians 11:23-26)

ELDER: *The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is My Body which is given for you."*

COMMUNION MUSIC "Brightest and Best" Herbert

ELDER: *In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant of My Blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."*

CONGREGATION: *As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

SCRIPTURE Exodus 13: 17-22 Collins Henderson Brown

SERMON "Transitions" Collins Henderson Brown

*** HYMN OF INVITATION** "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Red Hymnal No. 677

*** BENEDICTION** Allison Mirabito

*** POSTLUDE** "What Was Your Vow and Vision"

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 30

9:00 am Sunday School
9:45 – 10:15 am Fellowship Moment
10:15 am Worship Service – Young Adult Recognition Sunday
10:30 am Children's Worship & Wonder

MONDAY, December 31

10:00 am Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Office Closed

THURSDAY, January 3

7:00 pm Advocates Bible Study

FRIDAY, January 4

10:00 am Taking down the Christmas decorations

A New Year's Prayer

Eternal God, this Tuesday You place in our hands the beginning of a new year, like a precious book of fine new pages ready for us to create the story of 2013. Last year's tattered pages are being bound between the covers of memory. Help us put the year on the shelf gracefully, without dwelling on either its successes or its setbacks.

Prepare us to welcome without fear the new year prepared for us. Give us courage to face the unknown challenges ahead. Help us learn from the mistakes we have made in the past. Help us forgive ourselves, that we may go on to write new chapters with confidence.

Keep us secure in Your peace. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

INVITED AND INVITING - **February 8 – 9** - Our church is hosting a spiritual and educational event called “Invited and Inviting” on Friday, February 8 and Saturday, February 9. The weekend gathering begins with a workshop service on Friday at 7:30 pm. Rev. Dr. William Willimon, former Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church will be preaching. He is listed by Newsweek as one of the top twelve most effective speakers in the English-speaking world. The nursery will be open. The workshops on Saturday will be led by Rev. Dr. William Willimon, Rev. Mickey Johnson the owner of the Tennessee Valley Press and other leaders in the church. These workshops will be aimed at helping church leaders focus upon what it means to be “invited” and upon the mandate of the church to be “inviting” in all of its ministries. The event is for all members and friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida. **Please support this wonderful moment to get excited about being a church that invites others to the life of living with the Lord.**

BIBLE STUDIES

Begin the new year in God's Word. Come to one of the following Bible Studies and celebrate the joy of learning more about the Lord and the Christian life.

- ⤴ Monday Morning Men's Bible Study at 7:00 am in the Farkas Room
- ⤴ Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study at 10:00 am in the Ann Gandy Room
- ⤴ Thursday Night Advocates Bible Study for Men and Women at 7:00 pm in the Farkas Room

A MEMORY BOOK FOR THE SPENCERS'- As you know, our beloved ministers, Edd and Mary Pat, plan to retire as of Jan. 27, 2013. That morning will include a special worship service with guest participants followed by a farewell reception in the Family Life Center where everyone will have the opportunity to express their love and good wishes. We plan to present the Spencers' with a Memory Book at the Reception. Each FCC family is encouraged to pick up a page for the Memory Book from the Narthex Table on which you can write a personal message to Edd and Mary Pat. **(One page per family please.)** Return your family's page to the church by January 20, so that the book can be compiled before the reception. A basket for the completed pages will also be available on the Narthex Table. Questions can be directed to Ann Langley. In addition to a gift from First Christian Church, which will include in part the provision of niches for each of the Spencers in our Columbarium, individual donations to our Love Gift can be made. Checks can be made to “FCC” and noted for “*Spencer Love Gift.*” Our collective Love Gift will be presented with the Memory Book at the Reception Jan. 27. Thank you for helping us send the Spencers into retirement with God's blessings.

LOVE GIFT FUND FOR SPENCERS' RETIREMENT - A fund has been opened to accept love gifts for the Spencers as we celebrate their retirement from ministry. If you would like to give to this fund, please place a check in the offering plate (or mail it to the church) and indicate “*Spencer Love Gift*” on the memo line. This fund will remain open until January 25th, as we will present the gift to the Spencers on their last Sunday in worship with us as our pastors. If you have any questions, please contact Libby Carpenter.

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jay Barkley, Allison Mirabito, Evan Alderson, Lori Morrow, Hannah Harms, Emma Harms, Andrew Brown & Michelle Bohan-Brown & Collins Henderson
ORGANIST/PIANIST: Twila Tyree
SERVING DIACONATE: Buzz DeVore, Nancy DeVore, Judy Dudley, Jeff Eady, Bob Frederickson, Julie Henderson, Ken Horne, Ann Horne, Scott Long, Bruce Moon, Marian Moon, Chuck McWilliams, Virginia Nall, Garry Tyree.
SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETER: Clayton Brammer
WORSHIP GREETERS (Door): Ed & Sarah Powell; *WORSHIP GREETER (Table): Virginia Nall*
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER: Story/Parable: Christmas – Meeting the Christ Child;
Storyteller: Joye Taylor; Greeters: Jeff Eady & Regena Varvoutis

Having Faithfully Served Our Lord Together

For 45 years,

The Spencers Will Retire.

Please Join Our Church Family As We Honor

REVERENDS EDD & MARY PAT SPENCER

They Will Retire With God's Blessings

On

Sunday, January 27, 2013

Farewell Worship Service at 10:15 am

With A Reception Following at 11:30 am

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4954 Valleydale Road

Birmingham, AL 35242

(205) 991-5000

The beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary today are in celebration of Pat Favorite on her 80th birthday given by, Russ, and the Favorite family.

The beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary today are in celebration of Barry Storer on his 70th birthday given by Susan, his children and grandchildren.